

DE BOW'S REVIEW.

JANUARY, 1858.

THE EMPIRE OF BRAZIL.

MANY circumstances conspire to give to the Empire of Brazil an especial interest with the people of the United States. In vastness of extent it compares very nearly with our own Republic—and whilst the one is the only considerable, growing, and successful government formed in the North, the other may be said to be the only great, successful, and powerful one which has developed itself in South America. Both are drained by rivers which have no counterpart in the world, which mingle their waters, and will, perhaps, in time, mingle their commerce and industry. Both stand together, though nearly alone in the world, in maintaining African slavery, and deriving from it that strength and consideration which experience has shown must result from it in all agricultural countries.

The importance of the Amazon has been shown in several articles in our Review, prepared by Lieutenant M. F. Maury, and by the Editor, and others, reviewing the explorations of Herndon, Gibbon, etc.*

Our present article will be confined to an examination of a new work on Brazil, issued in very handsome style, from the press of Childs & Peterson, Philadelphia, being the joint labor of two Reverend American gentlemen, Kidder and Fletcher, who travelled for a long time, and very extensively, in the Empire, and have, with pen and pencil, illustrated very fully its characteristics, history, and polity.

The entrance from the sea to the city of Rio de Janeiro, which is alike the Capital and largest commercial city of Brazil, has been described by all writers as affording one of

* See volumes xiv, xv, xvii, and xviii, and also articles in *Industrial Resources*, volumes 1—3.

the most sublime and beautiful prospects in the power of imagination to conceive. Mr. Fletcher, who had gazed upon the beauties of Italy from the height of St. Elmo, with Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples at his feet—who had climbed the Alps and the Andes, saw nothing anywhere to equal the grandeur, beauty, variety, and loveliness of the Bay of Rio. It has been the same to him when gazing in transports upon it at all seasons of the year—by daylight, by moonlight, or in the full magnificence of its starry nights. “No fancy sketch,” says another, “could surpass the scene, and we stood gazing upon it as if fascinated by the work of a master-hand.”

The population of Rio is estimated at 300,000, being the largest city of South America, and the third in size on the Western Continent, as it is the oldest in historical incidents. The city is built upon picturesque and irregular hills, which sweep in various directions, running back to the basis of the Tijuca Mountains, and is the residence of the King and Court. It is one of great activity, necessarily having some of the characteristics of our own, such as omnibusses, gass-lights, etc., but it still exhibits manners and customs pertaining to its peculiar civilization. There are few hotels. During the business hours of the day one of the most exciting spectacles is that of the coffee carriers, who are stalwart Africans, two-thirds naked, that go in troops, each laden with a bag of coffee upon his head weighing one hundred and sixty pounds, which is carried at a trot or a canter from the warehouses, without the slightest inconvenience. They hold, very often, rattles in their hands, whose rude music blends with the barbaric strains of native song, in which whole troop will unite. It was attempted to prohibit this part of the ceremony, but the quantity of labor performed declined with the privation, and policy dictated a repeal of the law. Thus, the Ethiopian will not change his habits whether under the southern cross or in the tobacco fields of “Old Virginny.” He is a musical animal essentially, and has no cares that are not at once dispelled by that sovereign specific. In the language of one of his well-known ditties—

“Me sing by day, me sleep by night,
Me hab no care—me heart is light.”

Though the Portuguese claim to have discovered Brazil, it was certainly visited earlier by the Spaniards. Pinzon, who had been an officer under Columbus, discovered the Amazon and took possession for Spain in 1500. Three months afterwards the Portuguese reached the same points, and the dyewood of the country, called in Portuguese brasas, from its resemblance to coals of fire, is said to have given rise to its name. A colony of French Huguenots, sent out by Coligny,

maintained a foot-hold for some time, but in consequence of treachery, and the opposition of the Indians and Portuguese, it was finally broken up. The French puritans thus erected their altars and sang hymns of praise in Brazil seventy to eighty years before the landing of the pilgrims. San Sebastian, now Rio de Janeiro, was founded soon after the overthrow of the French.

“With the wealth, and power, and increasing prosperity of the United States before us, as the fruits at the end of two hundred years’ colonization of a few feeble bands of Protestants on the comparatively bleak and barren shore of the Northern continent, there is no presumption in the belief that had a people of similar faith, similar morals, similar habits of industry and enterprise, gained an abiding footing in so genial a climate and on a soil so exuberant, long ago the still unexplored and impenetrable wilderness of the interior would have bloomed and blossomed in civilization as the rose, and Brazil from the sea coast to the Andes would have become one of the gardens of the world.”—Page 59.—(*Brazil and the Brazilians.*)

During the next one hundred and forty years Brazil was attacked at different times by either the English, French, or Dutch. The gold mines being discovered attracted all of the energies and resources of the people, to the exclusion of agriculture and the kindred arts, as we have lately seen in the case of California. African slaves, who had been early introduced, rose in value extravagantly. The fame of its golden treasures attracted large immigration, and stimulated the cupidity of the French, who stormed and took Rio, but which was ransomed for an enormous sum. This was the last hostile fleet entering the harbor of Rio, which, in 1763, superceded Bahia as the seat of government. Improvements on a large scale were at once undertaken, in draining the marshes, paving and lighting the streets, and in regulating the depots of newly-arrived Africans. The government was absolute.

Driven by the pressure of the continental system of Napoleon to the alternative of a surrender to Great Britain or to France, the Prince Regent Don John, of Portugal, came to the determination to retire with his Court to Rio until the happening of a general peace, as the Dutch at one time meditated a removal to their East India possessions. This event was hailed in Brazil with the greatest rejoicings, and the royal party were safely landed in 1808.

Now began a new era for Brazil. The narrow policy of commercial restriction was at once relaxed. The ports were thrown open. A printing press was introduced. Academies of medicine and the fine arts were established, and a royal library opened to the people. Foreigners were invited to the country, and embassies from England and France were estab-

lished. The whole face of the country underwent the most magical change. Says our author :

“The manners of the people also experienced a corresponding mutation. The fashions of Europe were introduced. From the seclusion and restraints of non-intercourse the people emerged into the festive ceremonies of a court, whose levees and gala-days drew together multitudes from all directions. In the mingled society which the capital now offered, the dust of retirement was brushed off, antiquated customs gave way, new ideas and modes of life were adopted, and these spread from circle to circle and from town to town.

“Business assumed an aspect equally changed. Foreign commercial houses were opened, and foreign artisans established themselves in Rio and other cities.”—Page 66.

From this colonial condition Brazil was, in 1815, raised to the dignity of a kingdom, forming an integral part of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil, &c., and Don John VI. was soon after crowned Emperor in great pomp.

The troops of Portuguese settlers, of high and low degree, who had come over, becoming the special favorites at Court, a jealousy between the native Brazilians and themselves began rapidly to grow up, as was often found to be the case in the North American colonies, and led, in time, to revolutionary demonstrations. These took form and shape on the happening of the Portuguese revolution of 1821, and a constitution for Brazil was vehemently insisted upon. Don John leaving at this time for Portugal, his son acted in the capacity of Regent, but finding the disaffection rapidly on the increase, in consequence of the arbitrary course of the Cortes, on the 7th of September, 1822, the Regent declared for independence, which was received with tumultuous rejoicings by the people. Thus was the extraordinary spectacle presented of the descendant of a long line of European monarchs taking sides with the popular party, and conducting them to what formed a bloodless revolution. Portugal had neither the resources nor the energies to make more than a feeble resistance, and Don Pedro was proclaimed soon after Emperor of Brazil.

The adoption of a constitution was preceded by much violence and disorder, and but for the firmness and courage of Pedro, the revolution, like that under Cromwell, must have signally failed. The instrument was at length prepared by a commission of ten persons, under the supervision of the Emperor, and adopted in 1824. It was the most liberal ever adopted in any other part of America except the United States, and was, in many respects, formed upon the basis of ours. Religious toleration, the habeas corpus, jury trial, free press, etc., are among its features, presenting, in all of these particulars, a striking contrast with that of Mexico. The

result is, that whilst Mexico has remained in anarchy, poverty, and decay, Brazil has grown in power and wealth, and her people have remained in the enjoyment of equality and justice.* The constitution which was thus adopted has remained in force until the present day.

The war undertaken by Brazil against Montevideo, which was attended with unfortunate results, and ended in the cession of that province, nevertheless is believed to have strengthened the constitution, and added to the securities of the liberty of the people.

A revolution in the public sentiment towards Don Pedro, growing out of the circumstances which surrounded him, and many of his acts, and the people demanding a change of Ministry, the Emperor discovered that resistance would be impracticable, and preferred *abdication* to what he conceived would be a concession unworthy of the Imperial dignity. This act was dated the 7th of April, 1831, and was made in favor of his son, who was declared Emperor, as Pedro II. As time rolls on the character and merits of the first Pedro are being better understood in Brazil, and statues are erected to his memory as the "Washington of Brazil." His subsequent battles in Europe against Don Miguel, his brother, in support of civil and religious liberty, are remembered by all the world.

The new Emperor being but six years of age, the Government passed into the hands of a Regency, which lasted for nearly ten years, during which time there were two revolutions, but, like the former one, nearly entirely bloodless. The Regents being accused of usurpation, the popular commotion became intense, and the Assembly, as well as people, demanded that the minority of the infant King, now fifteen years of age, should be proclaimed at end. The opposition of the Regent proved unavailing, and on his attempting to dissolve the Assembly, it refused compliance, and the whole people prepared for resistance. A committee waited upon the "boy King," who graciously consented to assume the reins of authority, and soon afterwards was crowned with a degree of pageantry and show never perhaps equalled in the New World. This occurred in 1841.

During the Regency Brazil undoubtedly flourished, in spite of many financial difficulties, and some rebellions and outbreaks, and since the crowning of the present Emperor serious election disturbances have happened in many parts of the Empire, in which armed bodies of men were brought in to

* Her commerce doubles every ten years; she possesses cities lighted by gas, long lines of steamships, and the beginnings of railways that are spreading from the seacoast into the fertile interior; in her borders education and general intelligence are constantly advancing.

influence votes, and bribery and corruption have at times extensively prevailed. These, however, are but mere trifles in comparison with the events which have attended all of the governments of Central or South America. Liberty is cheap even upon such terms, and can be had upon none other except among Anglo-Saxon races. In time it may prove to be impracticable even with these. But we are not disposed to despair under any circumstances of the good old cause.

In 1850 the first line of steamships was established from Brazil to Europe, whilst now there are eight. In the period which has elapsed her career has, in all things, been onward. Her public credit abroad is of the highest character. Internal improvements have been projected and are being executed on a large scale; tranquility has prevailed, undisturbed by the slightest provincial revolt; party spirit has lost its early virulence; the attention of all is more than ever directed to the peaceful triumphs of agriculture and legitimate commerce; public instruction is being more widely diffused; and, though much is yet required to elevate the masses, still, if Brazil shall continue to carry out the principles of her noble Constitution, and if education and morality shall abound in her borders, she will in due time take position in the first rank of nations.

Churches and convents are established upon all the commanding sites of Rio and its vicinity, and although religious toleration is allowed, yet the most degrading superstitions of the Roman Catholic Church are in full vogue. Every church is filled with native tablets, telling of wonderful cures by the innumerable Saints who are held in veneration. The religious festivals are also of the most gorgeous character. We have the following account of one of the festivals of *Nossa Senhora*:

“Early in the morning of this festival, the approach to the white temple is crowded with devotees in their gayest attire; for there is nothing in this celebration that requires the usual sombre black. The butterflies themselves, and the golden-breasted humming-birds that flit among the opening jessamines and roses around, are not more brilliant than the senhoras and senhoritas of all ages who flutter about, robed in the brightest colors of the rainbow, and with their long black tresses elaborately dressed and adorned with natural flowers, among which the carnation is pre-eminent. They enter the church to obtain the benefit of the *mass*; and happy they who have strength and lungs and nerve enough to force a way up to the altar through the crowds whom nature has clad in perpetual mourning. Once arrived at this desired spot, they squat upon the floor, and, after saying their prayers and hearing mass, they amuse themselves with chatting to the circle of beaux who, on such occasions, are always in close attendance upon the fair objects of *their* adoration. For be it remarked that most of the

praying, as in France, is done by the women; and probably for that reason each man is anxious to secure an interest in the affections of some fair devotee, in order that she may supply his own lack of zeal."—Page 100.

The hospitals are also on the most liberal and extensive scale, evidencing a regard for the sick and disabled to be emulated in most other countries. That of the Misrecordia is constructed of stone, six hundred feet in length, and of great depth, and is thought to be at once a credit to the civilization of the age, and a splendid monument to the munificence and benevolence of the Brotherhood of Mercy. The foundling hospital is a fruitful source of vice and immorality, and the deaths among the infant inmates are fearful in the extreme, despite of every effort. The years 1850 to 1853 were those of the first visits of the yellow fever to Brazil, and the mortality is said to be less than in those parts of the United States similarly afflicted. It prevailed chiefly among the foreign residents.

On the subject of slavery Mr. Fletcher has many interesting particulars, but looks upon everything with the eyes of a citizen of the Northern States, who cannot be considered a proper judge of what is fitting or not fitting to the institution of African slavery. He believes it to be doomed in Brazil, but our own conclusions are the very reverse, based upon the experience of the rest of the world, and upon its necessity in that country, evidenced in the great prosperity which prevails, and which does not exist in any neighboring States without the benefit of the institution. Upon this point our views, however, have been too freely and fully expressed hitherto to need repetition here. In Brazil color is not made the ground of any exclusion or prejudice by the constitution, and therefore the liberated slave may rise to a condition in the community denied to him either in the free or slave States of the American Union. Our author gives some examples of this, but all that he mentions are mulattoes. Neither in Brazil, in Jamaica, or Liberia has the pure, unadulterated black, in a condition of freedom, made any advances worthy of consideration beyond the condition occupied by him under the favorable forms of slavery. Notwithstanding the constitutional provisions, Mr. Fletcher admits that there is a prejudice existing all over the land in favor of men of pure white descent. But we digest a few of his particulars of Brazilian slavery.

There is a public house for the correction of slaves, and among private punishments are mentioned the iron collar and tin mask. The latter being often used to prevent the city slave from indulging strong drink, and the country laborer from dirt eating, a mania which prevails there as among

some of our own inferior classes, and which is most pernicious in its effects.

The slave trade was very nearly if not entirely brought to a close in 1850, which has produced an advance in the value of slaves, and led to better attention to their condition and necessities. Many highly educated men and scholars have some African blood in their veins, and the distinction of color is not observed in the schools and colleges. By law a slave can coerce his master to sell him his freedom if able to procure the money. The slaves of all classes go barefooted. The following extract will show the relation subsisting at times between the slave and his owners, so often exemplified in our Southern States :

“In the houses of many of the wealthy Fluminenses you make your way through a crowd of little woolly-heads, mostly guiltless of clothing, who are allowed the run of the house and the amusement of seeing visitors. In families that have some tincture of European manners, these unsightly little bipeds are kept in the background. A friend of mine used frequently to dine in the house of a good old general of high rank, around whose table gambolled two little jetty blacks, who hung about their ‘*pai*’ (as they called him) until they received their portions from his hands, and that too, before he commenced his own dinner. Whenever the lady of the house drove out, these pets were put into the carriage, and were as much offended at being neglected as any spoiled only son. They were the children of the lady’s nurse, to whom she had given freedom. Indeed, a faithful nurse is generally rewarded by manumission.”—Page 134.

The negroes are of different African tribes, some being hostile to each other and having different languages and usages. The Mina negroes are Mahomedans, the others nominal Catholics. The former are of a superior race, and it is said that some years ago about sixty of them returned to Africa, at an expense, which they paid, of about \$4,000. One of these prepared a paper written in beautiful Arabic. He was a chief.

“Many of them, however, continue their heathen practices. In 1839, Dr. Kidder witnessed in Engenho Velho, a funeral, which was of the same kind as those curious burial-customs which the African traveller beholds on the Gaboon river. You can scarcely look into a basket in which the *quitandeiras* carry fruit without seeing a *fetisch*. The most common is a piece of charcoal, with which, the abashed darkey will inform you, the “evil eye” is driven away. There is a singular secret society among the negroes, in which the highest rank is assigned to the man who has taken the most lives. They are not so numerous as formerly, but from time to time harm the unoffending. These blacks style themselves *capoeiros*, and during a festa they will rush out at night and rip up any other black they chance to meet.

They rarely attack the whites, knowing, perhaps, that it would cost them too dearly.”—Page 136-’7.

The English, German, and French residents all hold slaves, and an English mining company, whose stockholders reside in England, own 1,000 slaves. It is to be observed that we are dealing with an anti-slavery authority; and, therefore, what is said, must sometimes be received *cum granis*. We close this chapter with a single extract.

“The coffee-carriers are the finest race of blacks in Brazil. They are almost all of the Mina tribe, from the coast of Benin, and are athletic and intelligent. They work half clad, and their sinewy forms and jetty skins show to advantage as they hasten at a quick trot, seemingly unmindful of their heavy loads. This work pays well, but soon breaks them down. They have a system among themselves of buying the freedom of any one of their number who is the most respected. After having paid their master the sum required by him daily, they club together their surplus to liberate the chosen favorite. There is now a Mina black in Rio remarkable for his height, who is called ‘The Prince,’ being, in fact, of the *blood-royal* of his native country. He was a prisoner of war, and sold to Brazil. It is said that his *subjects* in Rio once freed him by their toil: he returned, engaged in war, and was a second time made prisoner and brought back. Whether he will again regain his throne I know not; but the loss of it does not seem to weigh heavily on his mind. He is an excellent carrier; and, when a friend of mine embarked, the ‘Prince’ and his troop were engaged to transport the baggage to the ship. He carried the largest case on his head the distance of two miles and a half. This same case was pronounced unmanageable in Philadelphia by the united efforts of four American negroes, and it had to be relieved of half its contents before they would venture to lift it up stairs.”—Page 135.

The Spanish, French, and Portuguese have never been as particular upon the subject of races as ourselves, and the consequence has been their deterioration. The offspring of these people with the negro, however, is superior in most respects to the offspring of the negro and Anglo-Saxon. Dr. Nott and others have adverted to this fact very frequently, but such intermixture will not recommend itself by the example of elevation of caste which is stated to exist in South America, Mexico, etc. A French work on Brazil, published in 1843, and quoted in the *Commercial Relations* of the State Department, gives the number of slaves in Brazil as follows:

On estates.....	2,500,000
Domestics.....	100,000
Without special employment.....	200,000
Hired out.....	200,000
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Total.....	3,000,000

The arrivals from the African coast are stated at—

1846.....	50,324
1847.....	50,172
1848.....	60,000
1849.....	54,000
1850.....	23,000
1851.....	3,289

Connected with these statistics, the Editor of the "Relations," vol. II, ventures a remark which is founded altogether upon an erroneous conception of the true results of the closing of the slave trade in Brazil, viz: that the production of sugar and cotton for export will be likely to cease. We believe nothing of the kind, for with 3,000,000 slaves to start with the Brazilians, with ordinary care, can have an annual increase of at least 100,000, which will be consistent with the widest development of agricultural wealth for many years to come. Already this result is being shown in the greater care exercised, and in the improved value of the slave, for prior to 1830, when the slave trade was legal in Brazil, the value of a slave was but \$66, whereas from 1830 to 1850, growing out of the difficulties of imports, it was \$220. In 1853 the value was \$605, and in 1857 it has reached, we are informed, on the average, over \$800.

The town houses of Brazil are old-fashioned, gloomy, and have the stable upon the first floor, with the kitchen upon the second. The infants of the house are mostly nursed by the blacks, and are sent very early to school. Music is greatly cultivated with all classes, and the opera is sustained by Government. Marriages, as in Europe, are conducted by the parents, and a willing acquiescence is a matter of course. The lives of the ladies are monotonous, from the fact, that their appearance in the street at any time, without a male protector, is considered indecorous. The balconies are the chief resort. The avocations of the day are given by Mr. Fletcher. First comes along the milk-man, bringing his cow, but not his cart, to the door. Then the vendor of fruits, &c., makes her appearance, from whom the little ones of the house obtain their supplies. The pedlar of silks and muslins next arrives, accompanied by sturdy blacks, bearing tin cases on their heads. These are admitted at once, and the ladies find full employment in turning over their contents and conducting what with us is known as the delectable occupation of shopping.

"Some families have negresses who are taught to manufacture this lace—the thread for which is brought from Portugal—and their fair owners make considerable profit by exchanging the products of their

lace-cushions for articles of clothing. One kind of needlework in which they excel is called *crivo*. It is made by drawing out the threads of fine linen and darning in a pattern. The towels that are presented to guests after dinner are of the most elaborate workmanship, consisting of a broad band of *crivo* finished by a trimming of wide Brazilian thread-lace."—Page 168-'9.

The purchases are thus all made at home. The ladies are only beginning to wear bonnets, which in church are always removed, and they invariably make their own dresses by the assistance of slaves. These slaves are found to be as well articles of annoyance as use, for "a lady of high rank in Brazil declared that she had entirely lost her health in the interesting occupation of scolding negresses, of whom she possessed some scores, and knew not what occupation to give them in order to keep them out of mischief. A lady of noble family one day asked a friend of mine if she knew any one who desired to give out washing, as she (the *senhora*) had nine lazy servants at home for whom there was no employment. She piteously told her story, saying, 'We make it a principle not to sell our slaves, and they are the torment of my life, for I cannot find enough work to keep them out of idleness and mischief.' Another, a marchioness, said that her blacks would be the death of her."

Among the indigenous fruits of Brazil are oranges, limes, cocoanuts, pineapples, mangoes, banannas, *frutas da conda*, *maracuja*, pomegranates, *goyubos*, gambos, *arracas*, *cambo-cas*, *cajus*, *cajas*, *mangabas*, and others with barbarous names and exquisite flavor.

Much improvement has lately taken place in the system of education in Brazil, both in the colleges and public schools, and the English language has grown to be a matter of special attention. The Government educated, in 1854-'5, 65,413 children, and as many more were educated by private means. Colleges, military and naval academies, medical and theological seminaries, are under the superintendence of the State. The regular army of Brazil is about 22,000 men, whilst the national guard is in strength about 400,000. The army and the navy are inviting fields of ambition.

"The young Brazilian likes nothing ignoble: he prefers to have a gold lace around his cap and a starving salary to the cares and toils of the counting-room. The Englishman and German are the wholesale importers, the Portuguese is the jobber, the Frenchman is the *coiffeur* and fancy dealer, the Italian is the *Pedlar*, the Portuguese islander is the grocer, the Brazilian is the gentleman. Every place in the gift of the Government is full of young *attachés*, from the diplomatic corps down to some petty office in the custom-house. The Brazilian, feeling himself above all the drudgery of life, is a man of leisure, and

looks down in perfect contempt upon the foreigner, who is always grumbling, fretting, and busy. The Brazilian of twenty-five is an exquisite. He is dressed in the last Paris fashion, sports a fine cane, his hair is as smooth as brush can make it, his moustache is irreproachable, his shoes of the smallest and glossiest pattern, his diamonds sparkle, his rings are unexceptionable: in short, he has a high estimation of himself and his clothes. His theme of conversation may be the opera, the next ball, or some young lady whose father has so many *contos*."—Page 180-'1.

The political elections are held in churches, in order, it is supposed, to secure sanctity and order; but this has failed, for election rows are not unfrequent where candlesticks and sacred images become ready weapons, offensive and defensive. The ins and the outs, as with us, ever struggle for the mastery, under the names of "progressive" and "conservative," or in our own dialect, "old fogie" and "Young America." We extract the following on the subject of Brazilian nobility:

"Nobility in Brazil is not hereditary, but *bene merito*, and has no landed interest or political influence. If a Brazilian has distinguished himself by his statesmanship, his valor, or his philanthropy, and he receives patent of nobility from the Emperor, his son does not thereby become noble. The title is lost to the family at the death of its possessor. While it serves as a reward of merit higher than that of a member of some order of knighthood, it does not build up a potent aristocratic circle which places itself beyond the reach of common-born mortals. The titles of nobility are six, viz: Marques, Count, Viscount *com grandeza*, Baron *com grandeza*, Viscount and Baron.

"There are six orders of knighthood, three of which have been established under the present Emperor. These, as well as the titles of nobility, are doubtless great safety-valves for the ambition and vanity of a people who have never yet learned the lesson of simplicity. They are, at most, harmless; and, if they make the Brazilians happy and promote the welfare of the country, it does not become the most rigid republican to complain, or to wish to square every other Government by his Procrustean bed."—Page 186.

The *Mandioca* sustains the same relation to the supply of animal wants in Brazil that wheat and corn do in northern regions: it is the principal farinaceous product, and is indigenous to the country. Formerly, it was prepared by scraping the root to a pulp with a kind of rasp, and then expressing the juice and eliminating the moisture from the remnant. Subsequently mills have been invented with presses. The raw juice is poisonous, and must entirely be expressed. The leaves of the plant may be eaten with impunity. It supplied to the native Indians their chief banqueting drink, being prepared by the women, who chewed the sliced roots and emptied their mouths of the contents into vessels which

were placed away for fermentation. On drinking days, intoxication was enjoyed by all classes. The cultivation of the best species requires from twelve to eighteen months. The roots resemble those of the parsnip. They are pulverized, screw-pressed, solidified, and beaten in mortars. The substance is now transferred to ovens to be dried. A beautifully white, but coarse, farina results, which forms a variety of valuable dishes. The juice of the *Mandioca*, when long standing, deposits a fine substance which constitutes the *tapioca* of commerce, and is an article of large export from Brazil.

It is remarkable, that notwithstanding the great commerce of Brazil, the United States have not a single steamer trading there, whilst, as before remarked, the English have so many lines. Though we export to Brazil only one-fifth of the amount that we import from her, England, by her steam lines, has in a short time increased her commerce with that country two hundred per cent., and her exports thither are now one and a half times as large as her imports. The reason is, we have done nothing to foster our Brazilian trade. Taking half of her Coffee crop, and the greater portion of her India Rubber, there is no reason why we should not supply her articles of manufacture in return. The people understand the value of our goods, if they could but get them. Even now four houses in Rio dispose of the labor-saving machines of our Yankee brethren. We take half the exports of Brazil, and give but one-tenth the imports! Here must be opened a future field of enterprise, and we can well endorse the patriotic and energetic efforts of Dr. Rainey, who has for several years been struggling to procure a line of steamers, connecting the ports of the two countries, and who, at the last session of Congress, obtained an able report favorable to the adoption of his scheme, which unfortunately came too late for action by that body. We have no doubt that the great merits of the scheme will carry it through at another session, and that the way once opened, new lines will be continually added. The valuable materials of Dr. Rainey, showing the resources, commerce, etc., of the Empire, are appended to the volume which we are reviewing. At this moment a letter or a passage for Brazil, from the United States, must take the circuitous route by Liverpool, a distance of nine thousand miles! But we shall refer to these matters again before closing our article.

Authors are not numerous in Brazil, and the chief taste for reading is confined to the literature of the French. A few provincial histories and works of science have, however, appeared. The government reports or *Relatorios* are of great ability and value, and periodical literature has lately been

engendered by the establishment of a Medical Review and a Brazilian and Foreign Quarterly. The newspapers are conducted with skill, and contain articles of ability. Verbatim reports of the proceedings of the National Assembly are published during its session. A commercial monthly, in English, is published. An agricultural journal, of eminent merit, was conducted for some time, but has unfortunately been abandoned. The National Library contains ten thousand volumes, and, at Rio, there are English, German, and other libraries, established by citizens of those countries. The National museum, Academy of Fine Arts, Conservatorio of Music, are all indications of an advancing people. There is a statistical society of able men and one of industry; but the first in order, of all these associations, is the Brazilian Historical and Geological Institute. It has collected extensive material, illustrative of the history and geography of Brazil, and is assisted by the government with money as well as by obtaining an examination of foreign archives. Its publications have been numerous and valuable. The sessions are monthly, and attract the elite and learned of Brazil, and even the Emperor is seen in regular attendance. A quarterly journal reports the proceedings.

The mode of jury trial is somewhat remarkable in Brazil. The following report, in a criminal trial, will show how the verdict is rendered, and in what manner the case is put:

QUESTIONS BY THE COURT.

"1. Did the defendant, B., on the 23d of September of the last year, kill, by discharging a pistol, the Italian, C., in D.'s hotel?

"*Answer.* Yes; (by twelve votes.)

"2. Did he commit the offence in the night time?

"*Ans.* Yes; (by eight votes.)

"3. Did the defendant commit the offence with superiority of arms, in a manner that C. could not defend himself with a probability of repelling the attack?

"*Ans.* Yes; (by eleven votes.)

"4. Did the defendant commit the offence proceeding with concealment or surprise?

"*Ans.* No; (by seven votes.)

"5. Are there any circumstances extenuating the offence in favor of the defendant?

"*Ans.* Yes; (by eight votes.) By Act 18, §.3, of the Criminal Code: 'If the defendant commits the crime in defence of his proper person;' and ditto, § 4 of same article: 'If the defendant commits the offence or crime in relation or revenge of an injury or dishonor which he has suffered.'

"6. Do the jury find that the respondent commits the act (or offence) in defence of his person?

"*Ans.* Yes; (by seven votes.)

"7. Was the defendant certain of the injury (or evil) which he intended to avoid (or escape from?)

"*Ans.* Yes; (by seven votes.)

"8. Was the defendant absolutely without other means less prejudicial?

"*Ans.* No; (by eight votes.)

"9. Had the defendant provoked the occasion for the conflict?

"Ans. No; (by eight votes.)

"10. Had the defendant done any wrong which occasioned the conflict?

"Ans. No; (by eight votes.)

"11 and 12, (like 9 and 10,) in reference to the family of the defendant, if they had provoked, &c.; and answered, No, (by twelve votes each.)

"Upon this verdict the court adjudged B. guilty, and sentenced him to twelve years' imprisonment at hard labor and the costs."—Page 265-'6.

Mr. Fletcher describes, with much eloquence and beauty, the scenery which surrounds Rio in every direction, and gives the incidents of many charming excursions. We regret that our space precludes any specific reference to these chapters. Brazil is the most elevated of all tropical countries, being on an average 700 feet above the level of the sea. This elevation, and the trade winds, combine to produce a climate cooler and more healthful than the corresponding latitudes of Africa or Asia.—(Humboldt.) The mean temperature is from 81° to 80°; but at Rio, during thirty years, the mean did not rise higher than 73°. Maximum in December 86½°. July minimum 66°. The cool breezes relieve the effects of this regular heat, and make the climate delightful, even in the midst of summer. Our author never, in many years, saw 90° reached in summer, or less than 60° in winter. Blessings on such a country in comparison with 102° in the shade, and minus 25° everywhere!

A yankee has established in Brazil the only successful cotton factory, employing German operatives, and producing the coarser fabrics. The Emperor has undertaken the construction of a line of railroads from the Capitol. The main line is now under construction in part, and another part is being surveyed and traced out by an American of our acquaintance, C. F. M. Garnett, as chief engineer. To change the subject, however, we extract from our authority a description of a glowing "fire-fly," belonging to the tropics:

"In the mountains of Tijuca I have read the finest print of 'Harper's Magazine' by the light of one of these natural lamps placed under a common glass tumbler, and with distinctness I could tell the hour of the night, and discern the very small figures which marked the seconds of a little Swiss watch. The Indians formerly used them instead of flambeaux in their hunting and fishing expeditions; and when traveling in the night they are accustomed to fasten them to their feet and hands. In some parts of the tropics they are used by the senhoritas for adorning their tresses, or their robes, by fastening them within a thin gauze-work; and through them their bearers become indeed 'bright particular stars.' It was of this fire-fly (which resembles, in every thing but color, the 'snapping-bug' of the Mississippi Valley) that Mr. Prescott, in his 'Conquest of Mexico,' narrates the terror which they inspired in the Spaniards in 1520. 'The air was filled with 'cocuyos' (*pyrophorus noctilucus*), a species of large beetle which emits an intense phosphoric

light from its body, strong enough to enable one to read by it. These wandering fires, seen in the darkness of the night, were converted by the besieged into an army with matchlocks.' Such is the report of an eye-witness, old Bernal Diaz."—Page 292-'3.

The distribution of Bibles was one of the most prominent objects of Mr. Fletcher and Dr. Kidder in their journeying and residence in Brazil. These they found the people ever ready to receive, showing the absence of all bigotry, and very seldom was there the least obstruction from any quarter. An officer of the Imperial Navy purchased a copy of the Scriptures as a present for his family, remarking at the time, "though I am a man of forty-five years of age I have never before seen a *Santa Biblia* in a language which I could understand." This little incident shows that Brazil stands in very much the same position, religiously, as Spain, Portugal, and the Italian States. To evidence the feeling, however, in favor of education, which does not exist in the countries named, our author quotes a passage from the message of the Governor to the Legislature of one of the Provinces:

"Now, primary instruction is, so to speak, a moral vaccine which preserves the people from that worst of pestilences—ignorance—from those crude notions which bring man to the level of the brute, and which change him into the fit and facile instrument for robbery, assassination, revolution, and, in fine, for all evil.

"Primary education is more: it is a kind of baptism with which man is regenerated from the dark ignorance in which he is born, and truly effects his entrance into civil society and into the enjoyment of those rights and privileges which are his heritage."—Page 321.

The *Maté* or Paraguay tea is the product of an evergreen forest tree, and its preparation furnishes easy employment for a large number of people. The tea is used with or without sugar. Though little known out of South America it forms the principal refreshing beverage of the people, and millions of dollars are annually expended in its purchase. The town of Paraguay alone exports \$1,000,000 in maté. It can be gathered the whole year. The branches and leaves are broken off and kiln-dried in the woods, and then transported to rude mills, to be pounded for the market. It is prepared for drinking by depositing the leaves in a bowl and then pouring cold and afterwards boiling water upon them. It is then drank through a tube like our mint juleps, but, it must be admitted, is but a villainous substitute for them. Great virtues are ascribed to the tea, which supplies the place of meat and drink. The Indians find it a useful but mild stimulant, and in Chile and Peru it is taken by many at almost every hour in the day. It is grown wild and has not been successfully cultivated. The same plant, or a very simi-

lar one, "*Ilex Paraguayensis*," is said to be found abundantly in North Carolina, being used by the people to "make tea." A question is raised if this might not be made in time, and by effort, an addition to the tar, pitch, and turpentine, which characterise the commerce of that Old Commonwealth. In the province of St. Catharine—

"There is a commerce in artificial flowers made from beetles' wings, fish-scales, sea-shells, and feathers, which attract the attention of every visitor. These are made by the *mulheres* (women) of almost every class, and thus they obtain not only pin-money, but some amass wealth in the traffic. The wreaths, necklaces, and bracelets made from the scales of a large fish are not only curious, but are exceedingly beautiful. Their effect at night is that of the most brilliant set of pearls, and they are as much superior in splendor to the small specimens of fish-scale flowers manufactured in Ireland, and exposed in the Sydenham Palace, London, as the diamond surpasses the glisten of cut-glass."—Page 346.

In the province of Rio Grande do Sul, alone, there are 500,000 cattle annually slaughtered for the sake of preserving their hide and flesh, while as many more are driven away for northern consumption. Most of the jerked beef of Brazil is prepared here. The flesh is taken off in strips half inch thick and then set to dry, using very little salt. Stacks of this meat are piled up like cords of wood in the provision houses. The province above mentioned exports about \$3,000,000 in hides, horns, hair, and wool, of which the United States take \$1,000,000.

On the subject of slave and free labor in Brazil, Mr. Fletcher continually reiterates the opinion that since the stoppage of the slave trade "slavery will die out in Brazil." As that effect was not produced in our own country from the same cause, we may hesitate to receive the opinion. It is more reasonable to believe, considering the present reaction in Europe, that the slave trade will again flourish in Brazil. Great efforts are being made to introduce European colonies, but a large portion of them are reported unsuccessful or in decay. We let the author speak for himself, however :

"There must then be a supply of laborers from some other source than Africa. The mother-country, the Portuguese islands, Germany, and Switzerland will furnish that supply. Individual emigration as it exists from Europe to the United States can never succeed in Brazil on a large scale, owing to the peculiar structure of the Government; but the system inaugurated by Sr. Vergueiro & Sons is capable of indefinite extension, while it protects the interests of both employer and employee. Though there may be individual instances of oppression under a powerful and unjust proprietor, yet, as a whole, this plan will in the end prove a great blessing to Brazil and to the poorer classes of Europe. Already the Swabian, the Fribourgeois, the Vaudois, the

Valaisan, the Portuguese, and the Ilheo, look up like men in their new homes: they have no longer that appearance—too common in their native districts—of the crushed and cringing peasant who has no thought beyond the pinching want of to-day. As we look upon their joyous faces, we can readily believe what Sr. Jose Vergueiro said to me at Santos: ‘They breathe here the air of freedom, sir, such as they never snuffed in their native land.’”—Page 413-’14.

Attempts have been made to introduce the Chinese tea into Brazil, and with much more success than followed similar ones several years ago in our country. The government procured a colony of Chinese acquainted with the culture and preparation of the plant, but they were unsuccessful entirely. The planters, afterwards, took the matter in hand, and now large and productive tea plantations are found. It is raised from seed, is planted in beds and then in fields, the plants being five feet apart, and not allowed to reach more than four feet in height. The third year after, the leaves may be picked, and children are employed profitably in doing it. They are rolled on carved frame-work, and then dried by fire in metallic pans. If left to itself the plant will run up to a tree. Several million pounds of this tea are prepared in the provinces of San Paulo and Minas-Geraes, and commands from twenty to forty cents per pound. The best is little inferior to the imported teas, and judges may be easily deceived, as we perceive by the following extract:

“A few years ago, Mr. John Rudge, of the province of San Paulo, sent some tea from his plantation as a present to his relatives in Rio de Janeiro. This was prepared very nicely, each separate leaf having been rolled by the slaves between the thumb and forefinger until it looked like small shot. It was thus invested with a foreign appearance, packed in small Chinese tea-caddies, and shipped at Santos for the capital. When the caddies arrived, they were seized at the custom-house as an attempt to defraud the revenue. It was on the other hand insisted that the boxes contained *cha nacional*, although, by some neglect, they did not appear upon the manifest. The parties to whom the tea had been sent offered to have it submitted to inspection. The caddies were opened, and the custom-house officials screamed with triumph, adding to their former suspicions the evidence of their senses, for the sight, the taste, the smell of the nicely-prepared tea proclaimed emphatically that it was *cha da India*, and that this was an attempt to defraud His Imperial Majesty’s customs. It was not until letters were sent to Santos, and in reply the certificates of that provincial custom-house had been received, that the collectors at Rio were satisfied that there was no fraud, and that the province of San Paulo could produce as good tea as that brought around the Cape of Good Hope.”—Page 421-’2.

From tea the transition is very natural to coffee, the great staple of Brazil. We have already given the history of this

useful plant. It was introduced by a monk in Brazil in 1754, though only after the decline of Hayti did it become an article of commerce. In 1809 but 30,000 sacks were grown, yet in 1855 over 3,000,000 sacks were exported, valued at \$25,000,000! The principal coffee region is on the banks of Parahiba, but it is now extending in every direction. It can be planted from the seeds or from slips. The trees are six or eight feet apart, and produce the second or third year. Each tree produces on the average about two pounds of coffee, though in some places an average of even six pounds has been reached. The trees are cut down every fifteen years, yet they will bear long after. Twelve feet is the greatest height allowed. The berry, when ripe, resembles the cranberry, and a negro can gather about thirty pounds a day. Three gatherings are made in a year. The berries are spread out to dry, and are then hulled by machinery:

“Nothing is more beautiful than a coffee-plantation in full and virgin bloom. The snowy blossoms all burst forth simultaneously, and the extended fields seem almost in a night to lay aside their robe of verdure, and to replace it by the most delicate mantle of white, which exhales a fragrance not unworthy of Eden. But the beauty is truly ephemeral, for the snow-white flowers and the delightful odor pass away in twenty-four hours.”—Page 451.

As Brazil has not been fully explored, its extent cannot be exactly stated. The Brazilian Geograph. Dict. places it at 3,004,460 square miles, which is as large as our Union plus a section equal nearly to New York and New England. Only four out of its twenty provinces are inland.

“It is neither the gold of its mines nor the diamonds that sparkle in the beds of its inland rivers that constitute the greatest sources of its available wealth. Although nature has bestowed upon Brazil the most precious minerals, yet she has been still more prodigal in the gift of vegetable riches. Embracing nearly five degrees north of the equator, the whole latitude of the southern torrid and ten degrees of the southern temperate zone, and stretching its longitude from Cape St. Augustine, (the easternmost point of the continent,) across the mountains of its own interior, to the very foot of the Andes, its soil and its climate offer an asylum to almost every valuable plant. In addition to numberless varieties of indigenous growth, there is scarcely a production of either India which might not be naturalized in great perfection under or near the equator; while its interior uplands, and its soil in the Far South, welcome many of the fruits, the grains, and the hardier vegetables of Europe.”—Page 434.

The following is one of the pictures which rapidly succeed each other throughout the volume before us:

“I looked from the veranda upon a scene of cultivation. Close at hand were one hundred and fifty hives with bees; gently-rounded hills

were covered with grazing flocks and herds, cotton and sugar fields were in valleys, while Indian corn and mandioca in large tracts were far to our right. The orange orchard was the largest that I ever saw in any land: it was computed that there were ten thousand bushels of six different kinds of the luscious fruit. The sweet lemon abounded to such an extent that it was estimated that there were five thousand bushels. A 'sweet lemon' seems almost as much of a contradiction in terms as an honest thief; but it is a reality. Dr. Ildefonso Gomez informed me that this fruit, exactly resembling the acid one bearing the same name, was originally a sour lemon, but, by a disease and by grafting, a new species has been produced. The taste is not so rich as that of an orange, but is very quenching to the thirst, and the Brazilians at Rio consume great quantities of them. Near S. Romão, a little place on the head-waters of the San Francisco, the lemon tree has become naturalized, and the cattle that pasture in the woods are so fond of the fallen fruit that when killed their flesh smells strongly of it."—Page 439.

Another extract will show a most excellent custom prevailing among the Brazilians:

"Another custom I observed in various parts of Brazil, which, though a mere unmeaning form, is a custom both christian and beautiful. I doubt, however, if one in a thousand attach any deeper significance to it than we do to 'good-morning.' At the close of the day the slaves enter the room where their master is, and, with their hands crossed, each addresses the fazendeiro in a pious salutation, the full form of which is, 'I beseech your blessing in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,' and the reply should be, 'Our Lord Jesus Christ bless you forever;' but in time this prayer and benediction are abbreviated to the last words of each sentence, which are pronounced in a most rapid and business-like manner by both parties:—*Jesus Christo* — *sempre*, (forever.)"—Page 441.

Lieut. Page, of the U. S. Navy, surveyed the Parana, Paraguay, and a number of other tributaries, and ascertained their admirable adaptation to steam navigation.

Thus has this excellent officer added greatly to the reputation of our Navy in its services of peace, and taken his place with the noble galaxy—of Baches, Strains, Kanes, Maurys, Gibbons, Gillis', and Herndons.

The monkey tribe have an important place in Brazil, and it will not do to ignore them in our article.

"In the northern part of this province are countless hosts of monkeys, mostly of the howling kind. M. de Castelmau, on the head-waters of the Amazon, found the written authentic account of a padre of very early times, who affirmed that there was here a race of Indians which he had seen, who were dwarfish in size and had tails. He says that one was brought to him whose caudal extremity was 'the thickness of a finger, and half a palm long, and covered with a smooth and naked skin;' and also he further sets his seal to the fact that the Indian cut his own tail

once a month, as he did not like to have it too long. Was not the padre's dwarf the *Brachyurus calvus*, with the short, ball-like tail, discovered a few years ago in this region by Mr. Deville?"—Page 461.

Some useful reflections in regard to the comparative merits of gold seeking and other industry are indulged by our author, and they suit the experience of other countries as well as Brazil:

"It is instructive to look at the widely-different results of the mineral and vegetable riches of the Empire. After Mexico and Peru, (before the discovery of Australian and Californian treasure,) Brazil furnished the largest quantum of hard currency to the commercial world. Here the diamond, the ruby, the sapphire, the topaz, and the rainbow-tinted opal sparkle in their native splendor. And yet so much greater are the riches of the agricultural productions of the Empire, that the annual sum received for the single article of coffee surpasses the results of eighty years' yield of the diamond-mines. From 1740 to 1822, (the era of independence,) a period which was the most prosperous in diamond-mining, the number of carats obtained were two hundred and thirty-two thousand, worth not quite three and a half millions pounds sterling. The exports of coffee from Rio alone during the year 1851 amounted to £4,756,794! And when we add the sums obtained for the other great staples of sugar, cotton, seringa, (or the India-rubber,) dye-woods, and the productions of the immense herds of the South, we have, it is true, a better idea of the sources of wealth in Brazil, but only a faint conception of the vast resources of this fertile Empire."—Page 462-'3.

Brazil produces only three millions yards of cotton goods though consuming a great many millions. An extensive cotton factory exists at Valencia, where the rattle of the looms, the din of machinery, and the garbs of the operatives suggest ideas of Lowell. The operatives are chiefly from the orphan asylum and foundling hospitals, are under good discipline, and compare in morals with the best of our factories. A large part of the operations are conducted by negroes, and the foreman, himself, is a well trained negro. The most extensive buildings are being added, and everything is very prosperous.

The anaconda of Brazil attains an enormous size, the largest reaching forty feet in length. A discription of one of them, and of his great exploits, is thus given by Dr. Gardiner, who is a reliable authority in the opinion of our author:

"Some weeks before our arrival at Sapê,' writes Dr. G, 'the favorite riding horse of Senhor Lagoeira, which had been put out to pasture not far from the house, could not be found, although strict search was made for it all over the fazenda. Shortly after this one of his *vaqueiros*, (herdsmen,) in going through the wood by the side of a small stream, saw an enormous sucurujú suspended in the fork of a tree which hung

over the water. It was dead, but had evidently been floated down alive by a recent flood, and, being in an inert state, it had not been able to extricate itself from the fork before the waters fell. It was dragged out to the open country by two horses, and was found to measure thirty-seven feet in length. On opening it, the bones of a horse in a somewhat broken condition, and the flesh in a half-digested state, were found within it: the bones of the head were uninjured. From these circumstances we concluded that the boa had swallowed the horse entire. In all kinds of snakes the capacity for swallowing is prodigious. I have often seen one not thicker than my thumb swallow a frog as large as my fist; and I once killed a rattlesnake about four feet long, and of no great thickness, which had swallowed not less than three large frogs. I have also seen a very slender snake that frequents the roofs of houses swallow an entire bat three times its own thickness. If such be the case with these smaller kinds, it is not to be wondered at that one thirty-seven feet long should be able to swallow a horse, particularly when it is known that previously to doing so it breaks the bones of the animal by coiling itself round it, and afterward lubricates it with a slimy matter, which it has the power of secreting in its mouth."—Page 509.

Pernambuco is the third city of Brazil, and is the greatest sugar mart in the Empire. Its population is 80 or 100,000. Everything—education, the press, bridges, water-works, paved streets, buildings, indicate great prosperity. It exports \$4,000,000 produce. Over three hundred sugar estates are scattered over the route of the proposed railway from Pernambuco to Joazeiro, a distance of seventy-five miles. We much regret that our author has not visited or described these estates, which must have furnished much useful and interesting material. Indeed, the chief defect of his volume, which covers so much space, is that it neglects the domestic condition of the rural inhabitants, and gives us so few views of their inner life and economy. Especially did we desire material upon the practical working of the sugar and coffee plantations, the discipline and treatment of the slaves, their condition, capacities, mode of labor, relation to the master, rate of increase, and a hundred other similar matters. A New England or Northern man visiting the South would have had his book full of all this, in which, however, the grain of truth in most cases would have been swallowed up in bushels of fables. Had Brazil been part of our South, we should have had "painted devils" enough portrayed in its slave fields, though not, perhaps, by our author, who seems, in general, to be a very just and fair man. Were the South a separate sovereignty like Brazil, it would happen that Yankee tourists might follow the example in the book before us.

Nearly all of Brazil is adapted to the production of sugar, but it is grown chiefly on the sea coast. The total product of

Pernambuco in 1855 is stated at 140,000,000 pounds, or about half the crop of Louisiana. The same year the whole export of Brazil reached 254,000,000 lbs.! The price on the wharf varies from three for brown to five cents for pure white sugar. Pernambuco also exports about 6,000,000 pounds of cotton to England, which is better in quality than the average exported by us. It is preferred by the Quakers, because erroneously believed to be altogether produced by free labor. The whole cotton export of Brazil is about 21,000,000 pounds. An account of the India Rubber product of Brazil will be found very interesting:

"The use of the caoutchouc or gum-elastic was learned from the Omaguas, a tribe of Brazilian Indians. These savages used it in the form of bottles and syringes: (hence the name syring-tree.) It was their custom to present a bottle of it to every guest at the beginning of one of their feasts. The Portuguese settlers in Pará were the first who profited by turning it to other uses, converting it into shoes, boots, hats, and garments. It was found to be specially serviceable in a country so much exposed to rains and floods. But of late the improvements in its manufacture have vastly extended its uses and made it essential to the health and comfort of the whole enlightened world. The aboriginal name of this substance was *cahuchu*, the pronunciation of which is nearly preserved in the word *caoutchouc*. At Pará it is now generally called *syringa*, and sometimes *borracha*. It is the product of the *Siphilla elastica*—a tree which grows to the height of eighty and sometimes one hundred feet. It generally runs up quite erect, forty or fifty feet, without branches. Its top is spreading, and is ornamented with a thick and glossy foliage. On the slightest incision the gum exudes, having at first the appearance of thick, yellow cream.

"The trees are generally tapped in the morning, and about a gill of the fluid is collected from one incision in the course of the day. It is caught in small cups of clay, moulded for the purpose with the hand. These are emptied, when full, into a jar. No sooner is this gum collected than it is ready for immediate use. Forms of various kinds, representing shoes, bottles, toys, &c., are in readiness, made of clay.

"When the rough shoes of Pará are manufactured, it is a matter of economy to have wooden lasts. These are first coated with clay, so as to be easily withdrawn. A handle is affixed to the last for the convenience of working. The fluid is poured over the form, and a thin coating immediately adheres to the clay. The next movement is to expose the gum to the action of smoke. The substance ignited for this purpose is the fruit of the *wassou*-palm. This fumigation serves the double purpose of drying the gum and of giving it a darker color. When one coating is sufficiently hardened, another is added and smoked in turn. Thus, any thickness can be produced. It is seldom that a shoe receives more than a dozen coats. The work, when formed, is exposed to the sun. For a day or two it remains soft enough to receive permanent impressions. During this time the shoes are figured according to the fancy of the operatives, by the use of a style or pointed stick. They retain their yellowish color for sometime after the lasts are taken out and they are considered ready for market. Indeed, they are usually sold when the gum is so fresh that the pieces require to be kept apart: hence, pairs of shoes are generally tied together and suspended on long poles. They may be seen daily at Pará, suspended over the decks of the canoes that come down the river and on the shoulders of the men who deliver them to the merchants. Those who buy the shoes for exportation commonly stuff them with dried grass to preserve their extension. Various persons living in the suburbs of Pará collect the caoutchouc and manufacture it on a small scale. But it is from the surrounding forest-country, where the people are almost entirely devoted to this business, that the market is chiefly supplied. The gum may be gathered during the entire year; but it is more easily collected

and more serviceable during the dry season. The months of May, June, July, and August are especially devoted to its preparation. Besides great quantities of this substance which leave Pará in other forms, there have been exported for some years past about three hundred thousand pairs of gum-elastic shoes annually. There are, however, some changes in the form of its exportation; and a few years ago a patent was taken out, by an American in Brazil, covering an invention for exporting caoutchouc in a liquid form. The Amazonian region now supplies, and probably will long continue to supply, in a great degree, the present and the rapidly increasing demand for this material. Several other trees—most of them belonging to the tribe *Euphorbiaciæ*—produce a similar gum; but none of them is likely to enter into competition with the India-rubber tree of Pará.”—Page 552-’53.

A mill for cleaning rice at Para is described.

A description of the Amazon, and of its wondrous features, need not be reproduced, having been given before in the pages of the Review, when reviewing the labors of Herndon and others, or publishing the able contributions of Maury. Through the narrows of Obidos, this river of Hercules sends every second 550,000 cubical feet of water, being seven times as much as is discharged through the principal branch of the Ganges, and more than three times as much as is sent through the large Brahmapootra. The area of the Mississippi and its tributaries being 1,200,000 square miles, that of the Amazon is 2,230,000 square miles, (not including that of the Tocantins,) a space equal to two-thirds of Europe!

The population of Brazil, as given in the *Agricultor Brasileiro*, reaches 7,040,000, and the ratio of slaves, as furnished by our consul, Mr. Petit, would be as follows:

PROPORTION OF SLAVE TO FREE INHABITANTS.

Rio Grande de Norte.....	1 to 7.221	Sergipe	1 “ 2.927
Goyas.....	1 “ 7.000	Piauhy.....	1 “ 2.666
Santa Catharina.....	1 “ 5.000	Espirito Santo.....	1 “ 2.009
Alagoas.....	1 “ 4.221	Corte.....	1 “ 2.409
Para.....	1 “ 1.431	Rio de Janeiro.....	1 “ 1.181
Mato Grosso.....	1 “ 3.400		

But this does not include all of the provinces in which the total slave population rises to about 3,000,000.

On the subject of yellow fever, we extract:

“It first appeared in Brazil in December, 1849, or January, 1850, and committed its greatest ravages in 1850, in the maritime provinces. It was especially violent at Pará, Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro. Pernambuco escaped. Bad as it was, the accounts of its ravages exaggerated. In the whole Empire of Brazil, the population of which is more than seven millions, there were from this disease, in 1850, in fourteen thousand deaths; and, according to the official reports, there were not quite four thousand deaths from yellow fever in the city of Rio de Janeiro—whose population is three hundred thousand. Dr. Paulo Candido and Dr. Merrilles, who stand deterredly high in the medical professson, corroborate this statement. Dr. Lallemand, an eminent

German physician of the first professional ability at Rio exaggerates, it seems to us, both the number of cases and deaths : the former he places at one hundred thousand, and the latter at ten thousand—which seems to be utterly at variance with the statement of all the reports from other and equally credible sources. But, even admitting Dr. Lallemant's figures, we can see how much less was the mortality than at New Orleans, (a city one-third the population of Rio,) where in the month of August, 1853, 5,269 perished from this fell disease. And yet it has been represented that the capital of Brazil is the most unhealthy place in the world ! According to Dr. Lallemant, 475 died at Rio in 1851 ; 1,943 in 1852 ; 853 in 1853 ; and only four in 1854. In 1857 a few scores of cases occurred, but we have not the exact number at hand.

“In 1854 the disease had entirely disappeared, and has not since shown itself until in the beginning of 1857, and in the month of March of that year it ceased.”—Page 600.

We close the work of Messrs. Kidder & Fletcher with an extract from Dr. Rainey's admirable memorial upon South American steamships, and shall afterwards proceed to introduce some statistical and other material from other sources. Says Dr. Rainey :

“We see, from a generalization and combination of these tables and analysis, that our great advance in the Brazilian trade has arisen from imports instead of exports ; whereas the trade of Great Britain has advanced in both ; and particularly in her exports, which were already large ; the tendency being to enrich Great Britain and to impoverish us : that until 1850 her exports were stationary, while ours were increasing ; due, doubtless, to the superiority of our clipper-ships at that period, which placed us much nearer than England to Brazil : that she is now taking the coffee-trade away from us, and giving it to her own and other European merchants and shipping : that she is rivaling us in the rubber-trade : wholly distancing us in that of manufactures : and that from 1850 to 1855 she has doubled a large trade of profitable exports, and increased her aggregate imports and exports two hundred and twenty-five per cent. ; whereas it has taken us thirteen years to double a small trade, composed mostly of imports : it being evident that, with equal facilities, we could outstrip Great Britain in nearly all the elements of this Brazil trade, as we were doing for the ten years from 1840 to 1850.”—Page 619.

In the volumes entitled *Commercial Relations*, lately published by the State Department at Washington, made up from official and other sources, and some degree, also, from the very reliable works of similar character, edited by John MacGreggor, of London, it is stated that Brazil produces more than half the coffee grown in the world. The crop of 1855 being estimated thus :

Brazil.....	320,000,000	pounds.
Java.....	120,000,000	"
St. Domingo.....	35,000,000	"
Ceylon.....	50,000,000	"
Cuba and Porto Rico.....	20,000,000	"
Venezuela.....	20,000,000	"
Sumatra	15,000,000	"
Costa Rica	9,000,000	"
British West India	95,000,000	"
Mocha.....	5,000,000	"
<hr/>		
Total	599,000,000	"

The aggregate commerce of Brazil with all the world, for 1852, is stated thus :

	Imports—Frances.	Exports—Frances.
England.....	74,000,000	23,000,000
France	33,000,000	12,000,000
United States.....	24,000,000	71,000,000
Hanse Towns	12,000,000	3,000,000
Austria	6,000,000	7,000,000
Belgium.....	6,000,000	8,000,000
Switzerland.....	5,000,000

We have at present no commercial treaty with Brazil, and Mr. Robert G. Scott, our consul at Rio, says, in a letter to the State Department, that our trade very greatly suffers from the system in force there which taxes our agricultural productions more than any other, including even flour, and at the same time taxes the coffee that is taken in exchange higher than any other articles of export. He strongly urges a commercial treaty, reciprocal in its character, and founded upon the basis of justice and fairness: for the Consul thinks there must be an advantage to our trade growing out of the system of internal improvements which is being projected in Brazil, and believes that the right of navigation of its great rivers would also vastly add to that trade in connection with steam lines established from our ports. He concludes as follows, and so do we :

"No two countries in the world have greater mutual interests than this beautiful Empire and our own Republic: they are the two greatest and only two powers on the globe with negro slavery recognized and governed by law. The first is exclusively an agricultural nation, and the last chiefly so. We each raise and produce what the other wants, and no where in the marts of commerce do the two countries come in competition with their respective products. We, therefore, cannot become rivals in trade, and everything induces us to become friends, and strengthen more and more our commercial relations. We are too far apart even to have those jealousies and misunderstandings so common among contiguous or neighboring nations. The government of Brazil is a constitutional empire in theory, but has a constitution as liberal and laws as free as a repub-

lic, in fact. We wish to trade with Brazil on fair terms and with the advantage of at least some reciprocity, but in so doing not to be invidiously selected as a nation to fill the coffers of her treasury, without some equivalent."*

THE CHARACTER AND CAUSES OF THE CRISIS.

THE periodical press mistakes the instruments for the authors of existing social evils, and vents its wrath upon banks and brokers with as little reason as the cur who pursues and snaps at the stones which wanton boys cast at him. Excessive trade, aided by railroads, steamships, mails, and telegraphs, and other modern facilities of intercommunication, have paralyzed productive industry, and made half of Christendom one great gambling shop. Want of permanency and fixedness of property have begotten excessive trade. Modern legislation has made everything vendible, and every species of property unstable. Men find that labor entails poverty upon them, and that the keen encounter of the wits that trade requires and begets, opens up the only avenue to fortune. All success in life, and all virtue, merit, and respectability depend on reversing the christian rule of morality, and depriving others of the fruits of their labors, without laboring for them in return. The most pious Christian of our day thinks that man most meritorious, who makes the largest profits, and him most contemptible, who labors most for others, and least for himself. Great merchants, great professional men, and great artists are considered meritorious and respectable, exactly in proportion to the injustice which they perpetrate on their fellow-men, by exchanging the least possi-

* A writer in the New Orleans Delta, understood to be Wm. Mann, Esq., late Secretary of Legation in Brazil, has ably presented the subject of our commercial relations with Brazil. He asks:

"Why is it that while we enjoy reciprocity treaties of the most liberal character with every petty Duchy, Principality, and Kingdom in Europe, our Ministers have failed hitherto in negotiating a convention with that great and prosperous State, having a population of 8,000,000, and an area equal to that of our own country? Why is it we have been foiled in securing the opening of the Amazon, whose immense valley, possessing elements of prosperity and wealth no where excelled, still continues to be withheld from the uses and benefits of commerce? Why is it that our relations generally with that great slave empire, with which the South ought in justice to draw close the bonds of alliance, are on so precarious a footing? The answer to these questions is obvious. The Federal Government has been altogether too busily engaged in negotiating reciprocity treaties, exclusively beneficial to Northern trade and Northern productions, to have any time to bestow upon South American affairs. Mr. Marcy, it is true, sent a Minister to Brazil, with instructions to demand the opening of the Amazon, and to insist upon the necessity of a treaty, but as the Administration subsequently manifested utter indifference on the subject, the Brazilian Government supposed, and was *right* in supposing, that Mr. Marcy had retracted from the position thus assumed, and paid no further attention to the demands of our Minister."