

Mss 10 PAUL CUFFE PAPERS

SERIES F FOLDER 2

## BIOGRAPHY.

## MEMOIR OF PAUL CUFFEE.

*From the New-York Spectator.*

It is interesting to view the human character in a variety of positions, to observe the gradual progress of man in the different periods of life, and to trace the secret causes which conspire to enlarge the intellect and refine the heart. This interest is increased when a person begins in a low rank, breaks through the restraints of poverty, withstands the current of popular prejudice, and acquires wealth, reputation and public confidence.

Paul Cuffee is dead! It is thought improper that he should descend to the grave without a slight effort to perpetuate his memory, and to arouse his brethren to emulate his example. His character entitles him to notice, and his death must be esteemed a public loss. It occurs at a time when his counsels, influence and personal services, might essentially contribute to the success of measures, which are now in contemplation, to instruct and benefit his brethren, the people of color in the United States.

The death of an individual need not affect a public measure. But it is to be denied that Capt. Cuffee was a man of much plain sense and practical wisdom, and that many gentlemen, who have not had opportunity to collect their thoughts on the practicability and expediency of African Colonization, placed great confidence in his opinions. His knowledge on this subject was founded on personal observation. His views were definite. He had repeatedly visited the colony at Sierra Leone, and had carefully enquired into its internal state. He had transported several families from this country, and seen them agreeably settled in that colony. To the service of his brethren he had chiefly devoted several of the last years of his life, and to effect the settlement of some of them on the coast of Africa he had hazarded no inconsiderable portion of an estate, which he had acquired by habitual industry and perseverance. His opinions on this subject, therefore, merited special confidence.

It is to do justice to the memory of a good citizen, and to encourage the people of color to imitate the example of one of their own number, that a brief memoir of Paul Cuffee is here presented.

He was of African descent. His father, a native of Africa, was brought to the United States in his youth, and sold as a slave in Bristol County, Massachusetts. He remained in slavery a large portion of his life; but by great industry, he at length acquired sufficient property to purchase his liberty. Afterwards he bought a farm in Westport, and maintained sober and frugal habits through life. His wife, Ruth Moses, was a descendant of one of the Indian tribes of this country. They lived to see themselves encircled with a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters. Nine of them, between fifty and seventy years of age, survived until the summer of the present year.

Within three months past, three of them have followed each other to the grave. The three brothers, who remain, are independent farmers in Massachusetts; and the sisters preside over their families with propriety and reputation.

Paul was the youngest son. His father died when he was about fourteen years of age, and left to him and his brothers the important charge of making suitable provision for their mother and sisters. Their property consisted in lands, which were at that time unproductive. But the children, under the care of a discreet mother, by their good conduct, and by their industrious and frugal habits, easily secured a competent support, & increased in property as they advanced in years.

When about twenty years of age, Paul commenced business for himself. His commercial establishment began on a very small scale; his only ship was an open boat, and his longest voyages extended only to a few adjacent islands and to some towns on the coast. He met with several little disasters, which almost ruined his fortune. But a kind providence succeeded his persevering exertions, and his uniform integrity gained him the esteem of his fellow citizens. In 1806 he possessed a valuable farm, and was a principal owner in one ship, two brigs and some smaller vessels. The executors of his Will have made a general estimate of his property at about 20,000 dollars.

His early education was very contracted. When his father died, he scarcely knew the letters of the alphabet. By assiduity, he learned to read & to write in a few years, and made some proficiency in arithmetic. By the assistance of a friend he afterwards acquired a good knowledge of navigation. His skill in this department of science he has displayed by commanding his own ship in repeated voyages to Africa, besides many voyages to the Southern States and the West-Indies.

About the year 1780, Paul and his brother John Cuffee were called on, by the collector, to pay their tax. Their good sense taught them that taxation and the rights of citizenship were united, both by the laws of nature and of the state, and that since they did not enjoy the latter, they were not justly liable to the former: hence they refused to pay the demand. But after many delays and vexations in a suit at law, they found it most prudent to terminate the affair by paying the tax. Hoping, however, to obtain the rights connected with taxation, they presented a respectful petition to the legislature of the state. By some it was treated with contempt; but a considerable majority saw the justice and propriety of the petition, and, in defiance of the prejudice

and suggested many improvements in the natural and moral state of the colony. At the solicitation of the African Institution, he took a cargo of African produce and sailed for England. He arrived at Liverpool, August, 1811. Liverpool, a few years before, was notorious for its interest in the slave trade: hence the arrival of a vessel, whose owner, Capt. and crew, were all Africans, was a new and interesting spectacle. He visited London repeatedly. The Board of Directors of the African Institution held a special meeting to confer with him, which his Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester, attended. Their interview was cordial, & their arrangements were mutually agreeable.

Capt. Cuffee returned to Sierra Leone, & thence to America. He arrived here during the operation of the non-importation law. His vessel was seized and liable to be condemned. By the advice of friends, he made application in person to the executive of the general government, and his brig was generously restored.

After Capt. Cuffee's return from Africa, he made arrangements to put his plan in execution with all convenient dispatch. He conversed and corresponded with gentlemen of respectability who were interested in benevolent objects, and uniformly met with their approbation and encouragement. It appears that he found persons of good character and some property among the people of color, who were disposed to unite with him in the prosecution of his designs, and were ready to settle with their families in Sierra Leone. He had also collected utensils for the cultivation of lands, and some machinery for the more successful application of some of the arts. This was the state of his affairs, when the war commenced between the United States and Great Britain. The delay, which this occasioned, did not change his views, or abate his benevolent wishes to render himself useful to his African brethren. He cherished the prosecution of his original design, as a primary object of his life; and he indulged the hope that he was under the direction of that Being, who could so over rule events, as to accomplish the best wishes of his heart.

On the return of national peace in 1815, he carried into execution his former plan. On the 12th of October he sailed from Westport for Sierra Leone in his own vessel, accompanied by nine families, eighteen adults and twenty children, making thirty-eight souls. After a passage of 55 days, they safely arrived in the colony and met with a very cordial reception. Lands were gratuitously furnished for the several families, & they soon found themselves quietly established in the enjoyment of all the rights & privileges of citizens.

The following incident seems worthy of insertion.

*Sierra Leone, 25th of March, 1816.*

*Mr. Perry Locke.*—You are hereby summoned and required to appear at the ensuing Session of the Peace, which will be held at the Court-Hall, in Freetown, on Wednesday, the 10th day of April, at the hour of 10 in the forenoon, there to serve as a grand juror; herein fail not at your peril.

W D GRANT, Sheriff.

On this citation, Capt. Cuffee in a letter remarked: "Perry Locke was one of the passengers, whom I carried out. He made great complaint to me on account of being called upon. I told him he complained in America, because he was deprived of these privileges, and now he murmured because he enjoyed them. Go and fill thy seat, and do as well as thou canst. I mention this fact, that others may see that they have equal rights in Africa."

On the return of Capt. Cuffee to the United States, the new emigrants wrote letters to their friends and benefactors, in which they described the place, climate, fruits, and the means of subsistence, and expressed much contentment in their new situation.

In 1816, the applications to Capt. C for a conveyance to Africa were so numerous, that if he had contemplated another voyage immediately, it would have been necessary to have made a selection among the applicants. This is a sufficient proof, that the people of color when properly informed on the subject, approve the plan of colonization, and many individuals have expressed a readiness to embark in the cause, whenever the way is prepared.

In a letter dated January 6, 1817, Capt. Cuffee says, "All my voyages I hope will be in forwarding the great cause contemplated. It will be a consolation to my mind to be made use of in any way which may forward the plan so far as my friends may think it advisable."

But his voyages are finished. "He died Sept. 7th, in the 59th year of his age. Through several months of severe affliction, he was preserved in much Christian patience, fortitude and resignation: feeling entire confidence in that Grace which had been vouchsafed to him in life, and by which, through faith and obedience, he felt a comfortable hope of admittance into peace and rest. He has left a widow and several children to lament the loss of an affectionate husband and a tender parent.

"Many of his neighbors and friends, evinced their respect for his memory by attending his funeral (which was conducted agreeably to the usages of the Society of Friends, of which he was a member), and at which several lively testimonies were borne to the truth, that the Almighty Parent has 'made of one blood all the nations of men,' and that, 'in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.'"

[Remainder next week.]

LOSS OF SHIP LAUTARO.



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In 1797, Capt. Cuffee proposed to his neighbors to build a school-house. He was utterly unwilling that his children should suffer the disadvantages of a very limited education which he had experienced. But after several unsuccessful meetings and consultations, being unable to unite the sentiments and combine the efforts of his neighbors, he erected a house suitable for the purpose on his own land, and freely gave it to the people for their use. With his cordial approbation, this house has been opened for the accommodation of a Sunday-school, which has proved a great blessing among the children.

We now arrive at an interesting period of his life. Capt. Cuffee, possessing much humanity, could not avoid commiserating the sufferings of his African brethren. He could not reflect on their general ignorance and degradation, on their moral state and actual miseries with insensibility; and since a kind Providence had greatly distinguished him from the majority of his brethren, and had furnished him with a competent supply for his temporal wants, the enquiry naturally arose in his mind, "How shall I employ my property in the service of my Supreme Benefactor, and spend my life for the benefit of my fellow-men?" After attending to the general subject for several years, he was induced to believe that he might contribute to the welfare of the English colony at Sierra Leone, on the western coast of Africa. With this impression he made a voyage to Africa early in 1811, in the brig Traveller, of which he was the principal owner, and his nephew, Thomas Wainer, was the Capt. He remained in Sierra Leone about two months, held frequent conversations with the colonists and civil officers,

\* The authorities on which this memoir is founded, are a sketch of the life of Paul Cuffee in the 10th vol. of the Christian Observer, some other printed documents, copies of several of his letters, and observations of gentlemen who knew him personally.

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[Remainder next week.]

## LOSS OF SHIP LAUTARO.

Extract from the Log-Book and Narrative of the loss of the ship Lautaro, of Charleston, S. C. Capt. Benjamin Matthews.

Sailed from Greenock on Sunday, Aug. 24, 1817, bound to Charleston, with a cargo of coals, iron and dry goods, and a crew consisting of 14 persons, including the Capt. & cabin passengers, and 29 stowage do. in all 47 persons. On the 8th, at noon, strong breezes and hazy weather; the pumps had been set a going as usual to pump the ship out; at 15 minutes P. M. finding she did not suck, sounded in the well and found 3 feet water in the hold, although the ship had been pumped out at 11 A. M.; immediately rigged both pumps, took off the hatches and commenced throwing the dry goods overboard, and every thing else that could be got at. From 5 o'clock P. M. until 12 next day, we were employed in throwing over the cargo, pumping and bailing incessantly, when the water continually gaining on us, and no vessel heaving in sight, we concluded to get the long boat and jolly boat out, which was accordingly done, and into which we put about 20 gallons of water, one barrel and a half bag of bread; 3 hams, 6 pieces of beef, 2 chests, and one 6 gallon keg of beer, one main royal, and one main-top-gallant steering sail, 2 small spars, a half coil of rope, 1 compass, 2 quadrants and one chart. At 2 P. M. of the 10th, every person being quite exhausted with the exertions they had made to keep the ship up, gave over pumping and bailing, and the confusion was distressing beyond measure, which occurred in trying who would get into the boat first; the Capt. was obliged to order the boats to be veered some distance astern of the ship. At 3 P. M. with the greatest difficulty the Capt. succeeded in getting into the long boat. On his arrival in the long boat, he found 17 persons, including himself, in it, and 3 in the jolly boat; hove overboard a quantity of clothing, in order to lighten the boats as much as possible; lay by the ship all night, in hopes of some vessel passing near us, but at half past 3 o'clock in the morning, observed the ship to take a sudden lurch to leeward; she rose the next swell, and sunk so suddenly, that few in the boats saw her when she disappeared, carrying down with her 27 souls, including two of the ship's company.

We immediately cut the rope by which we



agricultural pursuits.

The free negro population of Massachusetts being excluded from all participation in the rights of citizenship, bearing, however, a full share of every State burden, Paul, though not yet twenty years of age, felt deeply the injustice done to himself and his race, and resolved to make an effort to obtain for them the rights which were their due. Assisted by his brother, he drew up and presented a respectful petition on the subject to the State Legislature. Notwithstanding the prejudices of the times, the propriety and justice of the petition were perceived by a majority of the legislative body, and an act was passed, granting to the free negroes all the privileges of white citizens. This was a day equally honorable to the petitioners and to the legislature; in which justice and humanity triumphed over prejudice and oppression; it should be gratefully remembered by every person of color, and Paul Cuffee should always be united in its recollection. This enactment was not only important as far as regarded the State of Massachusetts; the example was followed at different periods by others of the united provinces, so that the exertions of Paul Cuffee and his brother influenced permanently the welfare of the whole colored population of North America.

Paul, being now about twenty years of age, again turned his attention to commercial pursuits, encountering many adverse circumstances, under which most men would have sunk. He began with an open boat, but by prudence and perseverance, he was at length enabled to obtain a good-sized schooner, then a brig, and afterwards a ship. By judicious plans, and diligence in their execution, he gradually increased his property. In 1806 he owned a ship, two brigs, and several small vessels, besides considerable property in houses and lands. In a pecuniary point of view he became not only independent, but had wherewith to contribute largely to the relief of others, and of the African race especially.

Some idea may be gathered from the following circumstance, of the low estimation in which the African race are held, and of the energy required to rise above the crushing weight of prejudice. One of Paul's voyages was to Vienna in Nanticoke Bay. On his arrival, the inhabitants were filled with astonishment, and even alarm; a vessel owned and commanded by a black man, and manned with a crew of the same color, was unprecedented and surprising. The fear of a revolt on the part of their slaves was excited among the inhabitants of Vienna, and an attempt was made to prevent Paul from entering the harbor. On examination his papers proved to be correct, and the custom-house officers could not legally refuse the entry of his vessel. Paul combined prudence with resolution, conducting himself with candor, modesty, and firmness; and his crew behaved, not only inoffensively, but with a conciliating propriety. In a few days the inimical association vanished, and the inhabitants treated the negro captain and his crew with respect and even kindness. Many of the principal people visited his vessel, and at the pressing invitation of one of them, Paul dined with his family in the town. He sold his cargo, received in lieu of it three thousand bushels of Indian corn, which he conveyed to Westport, where it was in great demand, and it yielded our hero a clear profit of a thousand dollars.

Paul Cuffee experienced the disadvantages of his limited education, and he resolved, as far as it was practicable, to relieve his children from similar embarrassments. The neighborhood had neither a tutor nor a school, though many were desirous one should be established. Paul convened a meeting for making arrangements to accomplish this object, the great utility of which was so evident. A collision of opinion respecting mode and place occasioned them to separate without arriving at any conclusion. Perceiving that all efforts to procure a union of sentiment were fruitless, Paul took the matter into his own hands, and erected a school-house on his own ground, entirely at his own expense, and threw it open to the public. How gratifying to humanity is this anecdote! and who that justly appreciates human character, would not prefer Paul Cuffee, the son of an African slave, to the proudest Statesman that ever dealt destruction amongst mankind?

In his person, Paul Cuffee was tall, well formed, and athletic; his deportment conciliating, yet dignified and prepossessing; his countenance blending gravity with modesty and sweetness, and firmness with gentleness and humanity; in speech and habit plain and unostentatious. His whole exterior indicated a man of respectability and piety; and religion, influencing his mind, added, in advancing manhood, to the brightness of his character, and confirmed his disposition to practical good. He joined the Society of Friends, and became a



FOUR DOLLARS PER ANNUM.  
SINGLE COPIES TWO CENTS.

[The subject of the following narrative, will be remembered by many of the older inhabitants of this city, as a most respected and worthy citizen. He was a member and a minister among the Society of Friends, and associated with the leading men of his time. He had two sons and six daughters; three of the latter are yet living in this vicinity. Twelve of his grand-children are now living in this city and vicinity. We are indebted for the narrative to Tract No. 85, of the Leeds (Eng.) Anti-Slavery Series, furnished us by a friend.]

ENTERPRISE, BENEVOLENCE, AND CHRISTIAN  
CONDUCT EXEMPLIFIED IN PAUL CUFFEE,  
A NEGRO PHILANTHROPIST.

It has been justly said, that "the exertions of this truly benevolent man entitles him to the esteem of the world, and to the grateful remembrance of latest posterity."

It has been asserted that the negro is naturally indolent and improvident. Amongst the many proofs that might be adduced to the contrary, are the facts contained in the following narrative:

Paul was the youngest son of John Cuffee, a negro who was stolen from Africa, being dragged away from his home and connections, and sold into slavery in America. John Cuffee remained in this condition most of his life; but at last, by good conduct and industry, he amassed sufficient to purchase his freedom, and also a farm of 100 acres. He married a woman of Indian descent, and brought up a family of four sons and six daughters respectively, near New Bedford, Massachusetts.

John Cuffee died when Paul was about fourteen years old, when the care of supporting their mother and six sisters devolved jointly upon Paul and his brothers. The land which their father had left them proving unproductive, afforded but little provision for the family. They therefore labored under great disadvantages, and did not possess the means of acquiring even the rudiments of a good education.

Paul, however, was not easily discouraged, and found opportunities for improvement and of cultivating his mind. Through his own indefatigable exertions, with a little assistance occasionally, he soon learned to read and write, and also attained a knowledge of arithmetic. Some estimate may be formed of the natural talent with which he was endowed for the speedy reception of learning, from the fact that he acquired such a knowledge of navigation in two weeks, as enabled him to command a vessel in voyages which he subsequently made to England, to Russia, to Africa, the West Indies, and several ports of the United States.

Paul Cuffee's three brothers continued respectable farmers at Westport. He, however, was inclined to the pursuit of commerce. He conceived that it furnished more ample rewards to industry than agriculture, and being conscious that he possessed qualities which, under proper culture, would enable him to pursue commercial employments with success, he entered at the age of sixteen, as a common hand on board a vessel destined to the Bay of Mexico, on a whaling expedition. His second voyage was to the West Indies; but on his third, which was during the American war, he was captured by a British ship. After three months' detention as a prisoner at New York, he returned to Westport, where, owing to the continuance of hostilities, he spent about two years in



and more experience. to us to hear from the saints in distant lands, and to receive all who are disposed to come unto us, with open arms.

"Our dearly beloved African brethren, we also salute you in the love of God. Be obedient unto your masters with your prayers lifted up to God, whom we would recommend you to confide in, who is just as able in these days to deliver you from the yoke of oppression, as he hath in times past brought your forefathers out of the Egyptian bondage. Finally, brethren, may the power and peace of God rule in all your hearts.

"Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus."

This epistle was signed by sixteen respectable men of color. Let the candid reader decide who are Christians, such men, or their tyrannical oppressors?

After remaining about two months at Sierra Leone, Paul Cuffee sailed to England; for the African Institution, apprised of his benevolent designs, forwarded him an invitation which induced him to come over, bringing with him a cargo of African produce. For the more effectual promotion of his primary object, he left his nephew, Thomas Wainer, in the colony, and brought with him to England, Aaron Richards, a native of Sierra Leone, with an intention of educating him, and particularly of instructing him in the art of navigation.

From the exertions of one individual, however ardently engaged, we ought not to form too high expectations; but from the little information that can be obtained of his endeavors among the colonists at Sierra Leone, and the open reception he met with amongst them, there are strong grounds for hoping that the seeds of improvement he scattered were not sown upon an unfruitful soil.

[Concluded to-morrow.]

**BARK R. L. BARSTOW OF MATTAPOISETT.—A WHALING INCIDENT.**—The *New York Times*, of Wednesday, publishes an article from a correspondent at Rio Janeiro, under date of Dec. 31, 1855, in which the following incident is related:

During the present month an incident occurred on this coast which illustrates the peril and uncertainty of life and success among whalers. The bark R. L. Barstow, of Mattapoisett, Mass., a whaler, was cruising off the coast of Brazil, and on the 14th inst., a school of whales was fallen in with. At 12 o'clock, the mate, David Dexter, and five others, manned a boat and soon struck a large sperm whale. Dexter was inclined to wait for the other boats to come up, but not so with the whale. He making the strongest demonstrations against the proposed annexation, performing in a violent and most rapid manner evolutions that are nowhere written down in the books on tactics. They gave him all the line and he took it and more too, for he ran away with the boat and crew, and when the excitement of the chase was somewhat over, the bark was not in sight. It was now about 5 o'clock, and the mate hauling in what line he could, cut it and commenced searching for the ship. He continued the search that night and the next day, but seeing nothing of her, and having only a little bread to eat, he shaped his course for the coast of Brazil, which he reached on the morning of the 17th. Early on the morning of the 23d inst., Mr. Dexter came into this harbor and found shelter on board the U. S. frigate Savannah. Meanwhile the bark cruised after the missing boat four days, and finding no signs of her, gave her up for lost. So important a part of the ship's company being gone, Capt. Luce decided to give up the cruise, and on the 25th inst., came into this harbor. His surprise at the appearance of Mr. Dexter and the boat's crew, all safe and sound, can hardly be conceived; it was like life from the grave.

The board of underwriters of New York, and a large number of merchants and ship owners, of that port had prepared a memorial to Congress, and to the Secretary of the Treasury, asking that government will purchase a suitable steamer, possessing adequate speed and strength, to be employed in supplying aid to distressed vessels on the coast, or in the vicinity, during severe weather. There are about 150 vessels over due, many of them heavily freighted with living cargoes from Costa Rica.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—Wilder S. Thurston of Lancaster, Charles Bunker of Roxbury, and William R. Lawrence of Boston, have been appointed by the Governor and Council Trustees of the Reform School for Girls, located at Lancaster; vice Charles S. Macreading, Graham A. Root and Bradford K. Pearce, resigned.

The Plymouth Rock is afloat at high water.

minister amongst them, frequently exercising his gift to comfort and edification.

When the state of his affairs were such, as to render it necessary that all his resources should be employed in the pursuit of his private concerns Paul Cuffee was still desirous in some way to advance the interests of the community. When he was prevented from pursuing his business during the rigors of the winter, he often devoted his time in teaching navigation to his sons and the young men in the neighborhood. On his voyages, he imparted a knowledge of this invaluable science to those under him, and had the honor of training up both amongst the white and colored population, a considerable number of skilful navigators.

Paul Cuffee was upright in all his transactions in trade; knowing himself to be accountable to God for the mode of using and acquiring his possessions, he believed it to be his duty to sacrifice private interest rather than engage in any enterprise, however lawful in the eyes of the world, or however profitable, that had the slightest tendency to injure his fellow-men. On this ground, he would not deal in intoxicating liquors or in slave, though he might have done either, without violating the laws of his country, and with considerable pecuniary gain. What an incalculable decrease would there be in the aggregate of human misery were all Christians willing to follow the example of this despised son of Ethiopia, and be actuated by a similar spirit!

Being naturally possessed of a tender, feeling mind, Paul Cuffee deeply mourned over the degraded and miserable condition of his African brethren; and in his active exertions in their behalf, he shone forth most conspicuously as a man of worth. He observed many benevolent men endeavoring to release them from bondage, and instil into their minds the light of knowledge and religion, but the force of interest and prejudice combined, operated so powerfully, as to give the negro but little encouragement to hope for an advancement to respectability in a state of society where so few incentives to improvement were afforded them.

Such being the case, Paul Cuffee turned his attention to Sierra Leone, believing from various communications, that his endeavors to contribute through it to the welfare of his fellow-men, might not be ineffectual. His affairs being in a flourishing state, and being desirous to appropriate a portion of what he had received from an ever-bountiful Providence to the benefit of his unhappy race, he embarked in 1811, in his own brig "Traveller" manned entirely by persons of color, his nephew Thomas Wainer, being the captain. After a short passage, they arrived at Sierra Leone, when he acquainted himself with the state and condition of the colony, having frequent conversations with the Governor and principal inhabitants, and suggesting important improvements. Amongst others, he recommended the formation of a society for promoting the interests of its members and the colony in general; which was immediately formed, and named "The Friendly Society of Sierra Leone," being principally composed of respectable men of color. The following epistle emanated from the society. It bears the marks of native beauty and simplicity, breathing a christian spirit throughout:—

"**EPISTLE OF THE FRIENDLY SOCIETY OF SIERRA LEONE.**—To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, from the Lord Jesus Christ."

"We desire to humble ourselves with thankful knowledge to the Father and Fountain of all mercies, for the liberty and freedom we enjoy. And prayer to God is, that our brethren who live in distant lands and are held in bondage, groaning under the yoke of slavery, may be liberated, and enjoy freedom that God has granted unto all."

"Dearly beloved brethren in the Lord, may the power and peace of God rule in all your hearts, for we from an awful experience, the distresses that many of our African brethren groan under; therefore our minds are engaged to desire all the professors in Christ, gently to consider our case, and to put it to the Christian query: Whether it is agreeable to the testimony of Jesus Christ, for one professor to make merchandise of another? We are desirous that this may be made manifest to the professors of all Christian denominations who have not abolished the holding of slaves."

"We salute you, beloved brethren, in the Lord, sincere desires that the work of regeneration may be more and more abundant in your hearts. It would be a consolation to us to hear from the saints in distant lands, and to receive all who are disposed to come unto us, with open arms."



him and settle in Africa. Before he was ready for the voyage, the war commenced between America and Great Britain. This formed a barrier to his operations, which he was so anxious to prosecute, that he travelled to Washington, a distance of about 500 miles, to solicit the favor of Government in his intended undertaking, and to obtain permission to carry with him those persons and their effects who had volunteered to accompany him to Sierra Leone. Although his plan was highly approved, his application proved unsuccessful, the policy of the Government not admitting of such an intercourse with an enemy's colony. He had therefore no other alternative than to remain quietly at home, and wait the event of the war.

The delay thus occasioned, instead of diminishing his ardor, was employed in improving and maturing his plans, and in extending his correspondence, which already embraced some of the most distinguished philanthropists. On the termination of the war, he prepared for his departure, and towards the end of the year 1815, he sailed with thirty-eight Africans, who were to give instruction at Sierra Leone, in farming and the mechanical arts. After a voyage of fifty-five days, they landed safely on the soil of their forefathers.

In his zeal for the welfare of his race, Paul Cuffee had considerably exceeded the instructions of the African Institution, by which he was advised to carry over, in the first instance, six or eight persons; he had therefore no claim for the passage and other expenses attending the removal of any above that number. This he had previously considered, generously resolving to bear the expense of thirty himself, rather than deprive any who were engaged, of an opportunity of going where they might be so beneficially employed. When these persons were landed at Sierra Leone, it was necessary to provide for the destitute until they were able to do so for themselves. For this also, he applied to his own resources; so that he expended out of his private funds nearly 4000 dollars for the benefit of the colony.

On his arrival at Sierra Leone, he presented his passengers to the Governor, who gave to each family a small piece of ground in the town, and thirty to fifty acres of land, according to their number, about two miles distant.

Paul Cuffee remained at the colony this time about two months. On this occasion he drew up an address to his African brethren, containing much affectionate advice and pious exhortation, the general tenor of which may be judged of from the following extracts:—

"Beloved friends and fellow-countrymen.—I earnestly recommend to you the propriety of assembling yourselves together to worship the Lord your God. God is a Spirit, and they that worship him acceptably, must worship him in spirit and in truth.

"Come, my African brethren, let us walk in the light of the Lord; in that pure light which bringeth salvation into the world. I recommend sobriety and steadfastness; that so professors may be good examples in all things. I recommend that early care be taken to instruct the youth while their minds are tender, that so they may be preserved from the corruptions of the world, from profanity, intemperance, and evil company.

"May servants be encouraged to discharge their duty with faithfulness; may they be brought up to industry; and may their minds be cultivated for the reception of the good seed, which is promised to all who seek it. I want that we should be faithful in all things, that so we may become a people giving satisfaction to those who have borne the burden and heat of the day, in liberating us from slavery."

These appear to have been the simple expressions of his feelings; the language of his heart. When he took his departure, it was like a father taking leave of his children, receiving the tokens of overflowing affection, commending them, with pious admonition, to the protection of Almighty God. "I leave you," says he, in the concluding part of his address—"I leave you in the hands of Him who is able to preserve you through time, and crown you with that blessing which is prepared for all who are faithful to the end."

In 1817, Paul Cuffee was seized with a complaint which proved fatal. During his illness, which continued about half-a-year, the subject of ameliorating the condition of his race continued deeply impressed on his mind, and his decaying powers were occupied in an extensive correspondence with their friends. Though now unable to serve them

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# ENTERPRISE, BENEVOLENCE, AND CHRISTIAN CONDUCT EXEMPLIFIED IN PAUL CUFFEE, A NEGRO PHILANTHROPIST.

[Concluded.]

Paul Cuffee, with his brig Traveller, navigated by eight men of color, arrived at Liverpool, in the 8th mo. 1811; and the crew during their stay, observes the Liverpool Mercury, "were remarkable for their good conduct, and proper behavior; and the greatest cordiality appeared to prevail amongst them." They remained in England about two months, where Paul met with every mark of attention and respect. He visited London twice, the second time at the request of the Board of the African Institution, who were desirous of consulting with him as to the best means of carrying their benevolent views respecting Africa into effect. Having an opportunity of laying his intentions, and opening his prospects before the association, they cordially acquiesced with him in all his plans, and gave him authority to carry over from the United States a few colored persons of good character, to instruct the colonists in agriculture and mechanical arts.

To the honor of the British Government, Cuffee sailed from England with a license, from them to prosecute his voyage to Sierra Leone, carrying with him some goods as a consignment to the "Friendly Society," to encourage them in the way of trade.

Is it possible to conceive a more animating spectacle than a vessel commanded by a free and enlightened African, trading to the port of Liverpool, not many years before, the nidus of the slave-trade! and to see him prosecuting his voyages, with a vessel not laden with instruments of destruction, cruelty, and oppression, but manned with sable, yet free and respectable seamen, rescued from the galling chain of slavery, and now employed in honorable commerce?

Having again safely arrived at Sierra Leone, delivered the goods, and given some salutary instructions, Cuffee once more set sail for America.

Thus terminated his two first missions to Africa; undertaken from the purest motives of benevolence, and almost entirely at his own expense and risk. Unwearied, he went about doing good, devoting most of his time and talents to benevolent purposes. Christian reader, canst thou believe that such a man was possessed of a soul inferior to thine own?

On Paul Cuffee's arrival in his native land, he was joyfully welcomed by his family and friends, and every comfort awaited his command. But the sufferings of his fellow creatures, groaning under cruel oppression, and groping in the dark and horrible night of heathenish superstition and ignorance, were indelibly stamped on his mind. He could not rest at ease; nor think of enjoying comfort and repose whilst he might be instrumental in the hands of Providence in alleviating their sufferings. Far from being discouraged by the labors and dangers he had already undergone, and unmindful of the ease which the decline of life requires, and to which his long continued exertions gave him a peculiar claim, he renewed his benevolent labors. Scarcely had the first transports of rejoicing at his return to the bosom of his family and friends subsided, ere he prepared for another voyage to Sierra Leone.

In the hope of finding persons of the description given by the African Institution, qualified to instruct the colonists in agriculture and mechanical arts, he visited most of the large cities in the United States, held frequent conferences with the most respectable men of color, and others who had distinguished themselves as the friends of the Negro; recommending them to form associations for the furtherance of the work in which he was engaged. Societies were formed in Philadelphia and New York, and a number of eligible colored persons were selected, who were willing to go with



We have now concluded the sketch of this interesting descendant of Africa—we have followed him in his gradual rise, through a host of difficulties and prejudices to which the unfortunate descendants of Ethiopia are subjected; from a state of poverty, ignorance, and obscurity, to one of wealth, influence, respectability, and honor. Having thus elevated himself with an unsullied conscience by native energy of mind, we have seen him devoting the whole of his time and his talents to pious and benevolent purposes: we have beheld him traversing the globe, at the risk of his own life and property, endeavoring to promote the happiness of his fellow-creatures—we have seen that his motives were pure and disinterested, for he dispensed his thousands of dollars at once when occasion required—we have seen him indeed, a man, and a Christian, maintaining a higher standard than that of many professors, refusing to deal in anything, however lawful or lucrative, that could injure his fellow-men—we have heard that he was a good neighbor, an affectionate husband, and a kind parent—we have beheld him crossing the mighty deep, visiting the land of his forefathers, carrying with him the light of science and religion, and diffusing it through those vast benighted regions; so that the untutored tribes of Ethiopia learnt to consider him as a father and a friend—we have seen also that the philanthropists of Great Britain and America were not ashamed to seek for counsel and advice from this son of a poor African slave! We have heard him commend his wife and his children to the Almighty, and die the death of the righteous, in full assurance of a glorious immortality. Surely prejudice will not denounce such a man, because of his

"Fleecy locks and black complexion," as being possessed of an inferior soul.

**ANOTHER RICH STRIKE!**—*Four Hundred Dollars to a Bucket.*—The *Sonora Herald* says, last week, Turner & Co., engaged in mining on Montezuma Flat, at the base of Table Mountain, struck upon the richest lead of gold that we believe has ever been found in California. In the first ten buckets of dirt taken from it there were four thousand dollars worth of gold! The lead is rather narrow, but scarcely a lump of the size of a man's fist can be taken out that does not hold from fifty to one hundred dollars.—*San Francisco Alta, Cal., Jan. 21.*

A merchant of San Francisco, who has pretty thoroughly explored the mining districts of that State, says that not one acre in a thousand throughout the mining region has, as yet, ever been prospected, and that thousands of years must elapse before the mines will give out, for the reason that there will never be water sufficient to enable us to exhaust them.

**FAILURE OF BARNUM.**—The New Haven papers report that at the meeting of the creditors of the Jerome Company, with which Barnum is so deeply involved, it was voted that the concern should go into bankruptcy, as there was apparently an ability to bring all the creditors into the proposed arrangement. The *New Haven Journal* says: "By this result the creditors will hardly be the gainers, though we have hopes that the extensive business of the concern will be preserved to our city." It also reports that "P. T. Barnum has been put into bankruptcy here, and Frederick Crowell, Esq., has been appointed Trustee of his estate."

**MAN HUNG.**—Jacob Armbruster, convicted of the murder of his wife, was hung at Doylestown, Pa., on Friday, within the walls of the jail. He made some remarks on the scaffold denying that he was guilty of the crime for which he was to suffer, and declaring that the trial was conducted by prejudiced counsel and perjured witnesses. He continued to protest his innocence to the last. His dying words were—"I want no judge but God."

**COLD JANUARIES.**—It appears from a table published by the *Boston Traveller*, in which the last thirty-two Januaries are arranged, according to their mean temperatures, that but two colder, and twenty-nine more warm, than that of 1856, and that the difference between 1840, the coldest, and 1838, the warmest of the thirty-two, were 143 degrees.

as he had done, he was gratified in finding his views adopted by a number of the most benevolent and influential men in America.

Such, then, is a hasty sketch of Paul Cuffee; portraying the activity of his labors in behalf of the African race. His whole life may be said to have been spent in their service. To their interests he devoted the acquisitions of his youth, the time of his later years, and even the thoughts of his dying pillow! He died in 1817, his labors and his life being thus terminated in the 59th year of his age.

"As a private man," says Peter Williams, "Paul Cuffee was just and upright in all his dealings, an affectionate husband, a kind father, a good neighbor, and a faithful friend. Pious without ostentation, he manifested in all his deportment that he was a true disciple of Jesus; and cherished a charitable disposition to professors of every denomination, who walked according to the leading principles of the gospel. Regardless of the honors and pleasures of the world, in humble imitation of his Divine Master, he went from place to place doing good; looking not for his reward among men, but in the favor of his heavenly Father. Thus walking in the ways of piety and usefulness, in the smiles of an approving conscience, and the favor of God, he enjoyed through life an unusual serenity and satisfaction of mind; and, when the fatal messenger arrived to cut the bonds of mortality, it found him in peace, ready and willing to depart. In that solemnly interesting period, when nature with him was struggling in the pangs of dissolution, such a calmness and serenity overspread his soul, and manifested itself in his countenance and actions, that the heart of the greatest reprobate, at beholding him, would respond to the wish, 'Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.'"

"A short time previous to his final close, feeling sensible that his end was near, he called his family together to bid them adieu! It was an affecting scene—a scene of inexpressible solemnity—of tears and bitter anguish on the one hand, and Christian firmness and resignation on the other. His wife and children, and several other relatives, being assembled around him, he reached forth his enfeebled hand, and after shaking hands with each, and giving them some pious advice, he commended them to the tender mercies of Jehovah, and bade them all a final farewell."

Thus did he experience a happy transition from works to rewards, from a state of trial and probation to a glorious eternity! Whatever the shade of his complexion might be, his faith was steadfastly fixed on the Redeemer, in the merits of whose sufferings and death he most surely believed, and through whom he had a well-grounded hope of eternal life.

The following extract from an American paper, affords an additional testimony to the character of this excellent man:—

"Died at Westport, on the 7th of September, Paul Cuffee, a very respectable man of color, in the 59th year of his age. A descendant of Africa, he overcame by native strength of mind, and firm adherence to principle, the prejudices with which his descendants are too generally viewed. Industrious, temperate, and prudent, his means of acquiring property, small at first, were gradually increased; and the strict integrity of his conduct gained him numerous friends, to whom he never gave occasion to regret the confidence they had placed in him. His mercantile pursuits were generally successful; and, blessed with competence, if not with wealth, the enlarged benevolence of his mind was manifested, not only in acts of charity to individuals, and in the promotion of objects of general utility, but more particularly in the deep interest he felt for the welfare of his brethren of the African race."

"He was concerned, not only to set them a good example, by his own correct conduct, to admonish and counsel them against the vices and habits to which he found them most prone—but more extensively to promote their welfare, and, at considerable sacrifice of property, he three times visited the colony of Sierra Leone. After his first voyage thither, he went to England, where he was much noticed by the members of the African Institution, who conferred with him on the best manner of extending the means of civilization to the people of Africa, some of whom have since expressed their satisfaction in his pious labors in the colony; believing them to have been productive of much usefulness to that settlement."

"Grave, humble, and unassuming in his deportment, he was remarkable for great civility and sound discretion. Through several months' severe affliction he was preserved in much Christian patience, fortitude, and resignation; feeling entire confidence in that grace which had been vouchsafed to him in life, and by which, through faith and obedience, he felt a comfortable hope of admittance into peace and rest. He has left a widow and several children to lament the loss of an affectionate husband and parent."

"Many of his neighbors and friends evinced their respect for his memory by attending his funeral, which was conducted agreeably to the usages of the Society of Friends, of which [as before stated] he was a member; and at which several lively testimonies were borne to the truth, that the Almighty Parent has made of one blood all the nations of men; and that, in every nation, he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted by Him."