

MISCELLANEOUS.

A LIBERIAN EXHIBITION IN CHICAGO.



The little Negro republic Liberia in Africa is a creation of the United States, and we ought to be interested in its fate not only because we are responsible for its existence, but also because it has become the theater of international intrigues, for the European nations show a greater interest in its territory than is good for its independence and we should bear in mind that it is the only territory in Africa where the government is exclusively in the hands of the black race. Liberia needs our sympathy, and sympathy can be maintained only when it is sufficiently based on knowledge. We ought to know the problems of Liberia, and ought to know the dangers with which the country is threatened. Is it possible that Liberia can solve its own problems, that the negro population can hold their own against Great Britain, France and Germany, who are showing a great interest in the country? Scarcely! And who should come to the rescue if not the United States who stand sponsor for its existence, liberty and independence?

For the sake of creating a greater interest in Liberia an exhibition was opened March 20th in the building of the Chicago Historical Society. The exhibition consists of all sort of objects of historical significance, besides pamphlets, newspapers, Liberian prints, maps, pictures, portraits, autographs, documents, seals, stamps, coins, medals, decorations etc.

The exhibition has aroused greater interest than was anticipated and a number of individuals have contributed to its success. The objects displayed fill five table cases and six upright screens. Mr. George W. Ellis, who was for some years secretary of our legation at Monrovia, has loaned an interesting series of objects made by the natives of the Liberian hinterland. Other curios of native manufacture are shown by Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, Mr. Campbell Marvin and others. For the most part, however, the exhibition illustrates the history and condition of the civilized Liberians, descendants of American freed-

men. Their famous gold work is shown by a small collection supplied by Mr. Ellis. Dr. Ernest Lyon, Consul-general of Liberia in the United States and one time our resident Minister to the Republic, has sent on some pictures and documents. Portraits and autographs of the President and other famous men and pictures of notable incidents in Liberian history are displayed. The collection of books in many languages relating to Liberia is almost complete. Probably so notable a collection of books and pamphlets *printed in Liberia* has never been brought together elsewhere. The five mission societies working in Liberia—Protestant Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran, African Methodist Episcopal, and Womans' Christian, are all taking part in the exhibition, and their work is adequately presented—an entire table case being devoted to it. The bulk of the objects shown, however, is the personal collection of Liberiana brought together by Frederick Starr, when he was in Liberia in 1912 and since his return to this country.

On the opening night an attractive program was given. Addresses were presented by George W. Ellis ("The Mission of Liberia"), Ernest H. Lyon ("The Liberian Republic"), and Frederick Starr ("African Redemption"). The Liberian National Hymn was sung by a quartette. The exhibition will be closed by an illustrated lecture by Frederick Starr upon "Liberia, the Hope of the Dark Continent."

It behooves us to be informed in regard to the only piece of Africa remaining in the possession of the Negro. The exhibition is one phase of the propaganda of education regarding Liberia carried on by Frederick Starr since his return from there in December 1912. In this material exhibition, in public addresses and lectures, and in his writings, he is trying to tell a simple but important story.

There are two books which convey all the information that is needed to form an opinion on Liberia. One is a stately work of two volumes by Sir Harry Johnston containing a fine collection of pictures and a valuable compilation of facts and from the standpoint of British politics with a view to a successful exploitation of the country. Another book, smaller in size but more important for us, is *Liberia: Description—Problems—History*, published by Frederick Starr, professor of anthropology at the University of Chicago.

The organizers of the exhibition are anxious to have people take an interest in it and especially invite students from high schools, either singly or in classes, because they have the conviction that sooner or later the fate of the republic may depend upon the sympathy which it will receive in the United States.

CURRENTS OF THOUGHT IN THE ORIENT.

BY B. K. ROY.

Kingship in Ancient India.

Like many other erroneous ideas it is generally understood in the western countries that kings in ancient India were given perfect latitude to become irresponsible despots. The people, of course, did not count in the modern sense of the term; but the ordinances of the sacred books of the Hindus were of such a nature that they did not allow the rulers to stray very far from what the Hindus call *Dharma* or *Niti*—the moral code.