

growth; consequently it needs no culture or attention. I have calculated that four hundred and thirty-five trees will flourish on an acre of ground, allowing each tree one hundred square feet; the third year they will bear, although not plentifully; the fourth and after, past the days of man, they will produce nuts, affording upon an average one gallon of oil to the tree, and this sells in America and Europe at seven or eight cents per pound, say fifty cents per gallon, giving the husbandman the sum of two hundred and eighteen dollars annually, requiring at his hands barely grubbing the soil at first, and perhaps two weeks pruning afterwards, yearly; and the manufacture of the oil from the nut, which is a very simple and easy process. The pulp after a few minutes' boiling becomes soft, and is easily detached from the stone, by bruising in a large wooden mortar; it is then rubbed in a vessel with water, and the oil, rising to the top, is easily poured off. Independent of the oil, the tree produces an excellent wine, and the palm cabbage, much esteemed by all acquainted with its use. The natives here make what they term palm butter from the nut. It is not much like our good New England butter, but more like gravy from meat, though far surpassing that or common melted butter, as sauce for rice or vegetables. I would advise that the newly arrived farming colonist should first supply himself with vegetables for his family's subsistence, as cassada, or the plain-tain. This, together with his sickness, and building a dwelling, will take at least one year. I would then have him put in all the cotton and tobacco that he could well manage, at the same time to save all the palms that should be on his lot, and sow a nursery of them if he had time. As I mentioned before, I consider sugar as entirely out of the question with the colonists at present, but if the board of managers wish it, I will make a beginning, at the public expense, on the farm; but it must be remembered that this labor cannot be performed by those condemned to labor for the public, as the cane requires much care at one season, and little or none at another, and when to be planted, cut, or manufactured, it must be done at once. It will require considerable machinery and good buildings, and I doubt not but the board will see fit to let it rest a while; but cotton I am anxious to get under way, and therefore wish a good quantity and variety of the seed sent out; also some work or works upon the subject of growing tobacco and sugar cane.

I have been thus particular in stating my views upon this subject, that the Board of Managers may understand why I have not commenced the culture of the cane and coffee, and also, that the man of color, when told that they both grow spontaneously in our territory, shall not expect to find plantations of them ready at hand. The mischief done by misrepresentation, or by wrong inferences deduced from dubious and ambiguous statements, is incalculable. It is enough that the Colonist sacrifices his home for the hope of liberty, peace, and plenty, and that hope should not ultimately be extinguished by the chilling blast of disappointment.

I judge a few remarks upon the health of this place, will not be considered premature. Upon this subject I have been tremblingly anxious and watchful, as I am satisfied that it will ultimately determine the destiny of the Colony. The natural advantages, in every other respect, are equal to