

gambia to Timbuctu. The expense of maintaining the colony has greatly exceeded any revenue derived from it. Though many doubt the political wisdom of retaining it, yet the French have too much pride to acknowledge that the enterprise has been in any way a failure; and they will undoubtedly hold it, and perhaps found an empire. Senegambia and the coast of Guinea, claimed by the French and English, are low and moist, filled with swamps and lagoons, and will prevent any European colonization.

South of the Kongo, the Portuguese claim a wide section of country running across Africa. They have occupied this country over two hundred years. They have done little towards colonizing, and only hold a few trading-posts on the coast and in the interior, dealing principally in slaves, ivory, and gold; and it may well be doubted whether, without holding slaves, they have the stamina or ability to colonize this country, or to produce any permanent impression upon it.

The south portion of Africa, from the 18th parallel on the Atlantic to the 26th parallel on the Indian Ocean, is generally fertile; and the climate is favorable to Europeans, and is capable of sustaining a large population. The growth of Cape Colony has been very slow, but a more rapid growth is anticipated. We believe it will be permanently occupied by the English, who will dispossess the aborigines, and form a great and permanent English state. The coast of Zanzibar, occupied by the Germans and English, is rich and fertile, the climate unhealthy; but when the mountain-ranges are crossed, and the elevated plateaus and lake regions are reached, the interior resembles the Kongo region. Massaua and Suakin, on the Red Sea, are unhealthy and worthless, unless connected by railroad with the upper Nile.

There remains equatorial Africa, including the French settlements on the Ogowe, the region about Lake Chad, the Kongo and its tributaries, and the lake region. The more we learn of equatorial Africa, the greater its natural advantages appear to be. The rivers open up the country in a favorable manner for trade and settlement. Its elevation from 2,000 to 3,000 feet will, I believe, render it healthy, though this elevation is only equal to from ten degrees to fourteen degrees of north latitude. Here all the fruits of the torrid zone, the fruits and most of the grains of the temperate zone, cotton, India-rubber, and sugar-cane, are found.

The country has been unhealthy, a great many Europeans have died, and few have been able to remain more than two or three years without returning to Europe to recuperate. These facts seem to show that the climate is not healthy for Europeans. But, by reason of the exposure incidental to all new settlements, the mortality has been much greater than it will be when the country is settled and the unhealthy stations have been exchanged for healthier localities. Every new country has its peculiar dangers, which must be discovered and understood, then overcome. I believe that these obstacles will be overcome, and that Europeans will occupy all this region, and that it will become a European colony.

If European colonization is successful, European civilization will come into contact with African barbarism. Where such a contest is carried on in a country where the climate is equally favorable to the two races, it can only result in the subjugation or destruction of the inferior race. If the climate is unfavorable to the white population, then, unless the inferior is subjected to the superior, the white population will fail in colonizing the country, and the Negro will either slowly emerge from barbarism, or return to his original degraded condition.

The Negroes have never developed any high degree of civilization; and when they have lived in contact with civilization, and made considerable progress when that contact ceased, they have deteriorated into Barbarists. But, on the other hand, they have never faded away and disappeared, like the Indian of America and the natives of the Southern Archipelago.

Nature has spread a bountiful and never-ending harvest before the Negro, and given to him a climate where neither labor of body or mind, nor clothing, nor a house, is essential to his comfort. All nature invites to an idle life; and it is only through compulsion, and contact with a life from without, that his condition can be improved.

In Africa there is going on a contest between civilization and

barbarism, Christianity and Mohammedanism, freedom and slavery, such as the world has never seen. Who can fail to be interested in the results of this conflict? We know that Africa is capable of the very highest civilization; that it was the birthplace of all civilization. To it we are indebted for the origin of all our arts and sciences, and it possesses to-day the most wonderful works of man. I believe that Africa, whose morning was so bright, and whose night has been so dark, will yet live to see the light of another and higher civilization.

#### BOOK-REVIEWS.

*Hypnotism or Mesmerism.* By CHARLES B. CORY. Boston, Mudge. 12°.

COMPARATIVELY little has been done in this country in the study of hypnotism, now occupying so prominent a place in the literatures of France, Germany, and other countries. It is the object of Mr. Cory, who is chairman of the committee on hypnotism, of the American Society for Psychical Research, to inform the American public with reference to those phenomena. Most of the papers here gathered together have been published separately, and the collection forms a very readable introduction into some aspects of the subject. A general paper on hypnotism, partly historical and partly expository, is followed by the most valuable of the papers, in which the factor played by the consent of the subject in the act of hypnotization is ingeniously analyzed. He shows, in one case, that the most intense efforts to will a patient to sleep, when the latter is unaware of the attempt, prove unavailing; while entire passivity is sufficient to cause sleep, when the subject has been led to believe that an attempt to hypnotize her is being made. Mr. Cory sums up his conclusions thus: (1) hypnotism is related to an abnormal constitution of the nervous system; (2) only a small percentage of persons are hypnotizable; (3) the condition is entirely due to suggestion, no one being hypnotizable without being informed, or led to suspect, that he is to be the object of experiment; (4) the condition may be self-induced; (5) in certain cases the hypnotic is insensitive. Mr. Cory's experiments on negative hallucinations are extremely ingenious. He shows, that, when an object is removed by suggestion from the field of vision, the subject takes note of some peculiarity by which to recognize that she is to ignore it. What the eye sees, the mind refuses to recognize. If a number of precisely similar objects are presented, the subject has no longer a clew as to which impression is to be ignored, and the suggestion fails. Mr. Cory has also a talk upon the therapeutic value of hypnotism.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE new "Century Dictionary," which has been in course of preparation by The Century Company during the past seven years, is approaching completion, and it is expected that the issue of the work will begin during the coming spring. It will be published by subscription, and in parts, or "sections;" the whole, consisting of about 6,500 pages, to be finally bound into six quarto volumes. Although the printers have been engaged upon the type-setting for more than two years, the publishers have waited until the labor of making the plates is so well advanced that the work can be regularly issued at intervals of about a month, and completed within two years. Probably no work of greater magnitude or importance has been put forth by an American house. The editor-in-chief, Professor William Dwight Whitney of Yale University, who is perhaps the highest authority in philology in both America and England, has been assisted by nearly fifty experts, college professors, and others, each a recognized authority in his own specialty; the design of the dictionary being to make it complete and authoritative in every branch of literature, science, and the arts. It is intended that the botanist shall find in the "Century Dictionary" full definitions of terms in his special line of study; that the civil engineer and the architect can turn to it for the definitions (usually with plans and pictures) of the terms in their own specialties; and so with every other pursuit or profession, — law, music, medicine, chemistry, anatomy, archæology, zoölogy, mineralogy, theology, etc. Each expert is reading the proofs of the entire work; indeed, the