

**A GUIDE TO  
HAYTI; PP. 9-108**

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**JAMES REDPATH**

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## INTRODUCTION.

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**T**HERE is only one country in the Western World where the Black and the man of color are undisputed lords ; where the White is indebted for the liberty to live to the race which with us is enslaved ; where neither laws, nor prejudices, nor historical memories, press cruelly on persons of African descent ; where the people whom America degrades and drives from her are rulers, judges, and generals ; men of extended commercial relations, authors, artists, and legislators ; where the insolent question, so often asked with us, "What would become of the Negro if Slavery were abolished ?" is answered by the fact of an independent Nationality of immovable stability, and a Government inspired with the spirit of progress. The name of this country is HAYTI. To Americans it presents an important and interesting study in whatever light regarded, —whether viewed, as the publicists of Europe regard the Union, as a new political experiment ; or historically, as the home of a coming race, to be composed, like the English, by the mingling of various bloods ; or philosophically, for the purpose of learning lessons for our own national guidance and instruction from the sanguinary chronicles of its wars of Independence. But it is to the friend of the Black, and, above all, to the enslaved and persecuted races in America, that Hayti presents the most important problem ; to both it has a higher than a merely speculative interest ; for to the philanthropist it suggests the thought of a duty to be performed, and to the proscribed it offers a home and a distinctive Nationality.

First interested in Hayti by the rare eloquence of Wendell Phillips, I sailed for Cape Haytian in January, 1859, for the purpose of describing the country and its people. During my voyage to the Island, a Revolution was successfully accomplished ; an Emperor was banished, and a President installed. A new historical era had opened.

I remained in the Island two months, travelling on foot from Cape Haytian to Gonaïves; in an open boat from that town to Port-au-Prince, and on horseback from the capital to Jacmel. I occupied myself exclusively in gathering information, — geographical, political, and historical. I returned to Boston in April; but, finding that my Notes were incomplete, and in many instances contradictory, and desirous of correcting my first impressions by more extended studies, I again sailed for Hayti in June, — disembarking at Gonaïves; from which, in July, I made a pedestrian tour to the American colored settlement at L'Arcahaie. From that fertile district, I sailed to Port-au-Prince, where I resided until my departure in September.

My third visit was made in July of this year, for the purpose of exploring Tortuga and the other insular dependencies of Hayti.

In the mean time, among other patriotic projects of progress, material and moral, which the Government of President Geffard had devised, was the plan of inviting an immigration into Hayti of all the enlightened and industrious men of African descent, in the States and the Provinces of North America. As an Abolitionist and a Republican, I felt a double interest in this project, — for not only will it be an agency of strengthening a colored Nation, by developing its resources, introducing new inventions, and bringing to it also moral sources of power, and thus demonstrating the capacity of the race for self-government, but it will carry out the programme of the ablest intellects of the Republican Party, — of surrounding the Southern States with a cordon of free labor, within which, like a scorpion girded by fire, Slavery must inevitably die. There is no country in the world better adapted for the culture of cotton, sugar, rice, and other Southern staples, than Hayti. All that it needs is laborers, intelligent and industrious, to devote themselves to the work. Thus, with the lever of an enlightened immigration in Hayti, the colored men of America could greatly aid in overturning the system of chattel Slavery in the South.

Brought into correspondence with the Government of Hayti, I suggested a number of guarantees to immigrants that should be officially announced; all of them, and many others subsequently asked for, (which will be found in the following pages) were immediately and publicly conceded. It will be found, also, that, in its desire for an enlightened immigration, the Government has transcended, not the demands only, but the expectations of the friends and representatives of the colored people in America. Requested to indicate the measures that should be employed to inform the class of immigrants invited of the nature of the country, the offers and intentions of the Government, and all the facts which men, seeking a new home, are naturally desirous of learning, I

suggested, among other measures, the publication of a Guide Book, the establishment of a corresponding office in the States, and the appointment of Agents to visit the various localities in the Union and Canada in which there are settlements of men of African descent. This programme was adopted, and I was asked to take charge of its execution. I accepted the position, and prepared this book. The experience that I gained in the Kansas work had taught me that it is neither possible nor desirable to put into a Guide Book—for I once attempted to do so—all that intending emigrants will ask. Hence, in this volume, the reader will find the essential facts only; for further information, he must apply, personally or by letter, to the office in Boston, where certified copies of the Governmental guarantees, the journals of Hayti, books of reference, maps, specimens of the ores, and of the staple cultures of the Island, will be found.

All that section of this volume entitled "Official Part," is authorized by the Government of Hayti, having been submitted to the Minister of Exterior Relations, and other members of the Cabinet of President Geffard. The original Documents bear the Seals of the respective Departments from which they emanated, or to which they were submitted for confirmation. For the rest, I have given my authorities, or write from my personal knowledge.

The Island of Hayti, originally divided between the French and Spanish, but reunited under President Boyer, in 1822, returned to its colonial political divisions in 1843, from causes which it would be entering into the domain of politics to enumerate. Since that time the Dominican Republic has held a large portion of the ancient Eastern or Spanish Part, and the Governments of Hayti the Western, or old French Part, with considerable annexations. As both Parts are nearly similar in their natural features, while writing in detail respecting Hayti, I have, at the same time, inserted a general geographical view of both of these Divisions.

The translations are by various hands; all of them are extremely literal. The Map accompanying the Geffard Edition is the most accurate hitherto published.

JAMES REDPATH.

HAYTIAN BUREAU OF EMIGRATION,  
No. 8 Washington Building, Boston. }  
December 3, 1860. }

## THE PINE AND PALM.

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### FANCY.

#### I.

On a bald peak Northern  
Stands the Pine-tree lonely:  
Sleeping,—his white mantle  
Ice and snow-flakes only.

#### II.

Dreaming that a Palm-tree,  
Morning land adorning,  
Lonely, on heights sultry,  
Silently is mourning.

H. HEINE.

### FACT.

#### I.

On the hills of Hayti,  
Wave the Palm-trees gladly:  
Never in their slumbers  
Sigh the Pine-trees sadly.

#### II.

Verdant are their branches,  
Never winter-blighted;  
Married,—see the loving  
Pines and Palms united.

JAS. REDPATH.

Book First.

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THE QUEEN OF THE ANTILLES.

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HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, NATURAL WEALTH.

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## I.

### History of Hayti.\*

IT was the 6th of December, 1492, that Christopher Columbus discovered the Island of Hayti. For this Caribbee name, the great navigator substituted that of Hispaniola, in honor of Spain, his adopted country.

It was the first land in America on which Europeans were to settle, and it was the first where the peaceful aborigines who inhabited it were to fall beneath the devouring activity of their new masters. The five caciques, who divided the authority, were subdued, some by the flattering manners of the Spaniards, and the rest by the force of their arms.

The brevity of this sketch forbids us to relate the many changes of the long drama which transformed this happy and populous island into a blood-stained desert. We refer those who are curious to learn this lamentable story, to the *Life of Columbus*, by Washington Irving. Suffice it to say, that the conquerors, having found quantities of gold in the country, abandoned themselves with eagerness to the research of this metal; and the aborigines, men little accustomed to labor, forced by their masters to the fatiguing work of the mines, quickly succumbed.

The discovery of the richer mines of Mexico caused those of

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\* Translated from the original sketch of Mr. Auguste Elie, of Port-au-Prince, which was written expressly for this volume.