

## The "Wanderer's" Africans Westward— Bound—Curious Scenes.

A correspondent of the *Marion Commonwealth* noticing the Africans that passed through Montgomery, Ala., recently, says:

"I was carried through 'Brown's speculator house,' (so called,) on Perry-street. In a house in the back lot were huddled together *thirty-eight native (Congo) Africans!* Don't shudder and say 'The moral sentiments of Chris'endom condemn the traffic.' But it is a fact; I have seen the Africans! And it is a fact—they were Africans!

I found them jabbering, in guttural sounds, something—I could not comprehend what. They were nearly all apparently in good health—fat, sleek and greasy. In the party were some five or six men, two or three women, four or five girls, and the rest boys, or what might be called 'youngsters.' They were each clad in common Kersey pants and round-about, over which they wore a heavy blanket. Women and all were thus dressed. None had shoes, for the reason that they could not walk in them; in fact, they could scarcely walk at all, having been confined and crowded so close on shipboard.

Most of them were very pert and lively, laughing and talking in their native tongue, and pointing at and jabbering about everything that particularly attracted their attention. Some of them had very singularly shaped craniums—they almost baffle description. One nearly square, one had a convex face, and another a sort of double concave convex head; but most of them had good heads, large flat noses, big mouths, front teeth knocked out, rather small ears, and quite small hands and feet. Some of them were good looking, but others shockingly ugly; some were what might be vulgarly called 'puff' or hog-jawed. I noticed one, a man, who had very high cheek-bones and several scars on his face, and appeared very intelligent. He was 'big chief,' no doubt, in his country. I was much surprised at one thing: they repeated precisely every word said to them. I asked one, 'Where did you come from?' and he propounded the same interrogatory to me, but of course without knowing the meaning; and in like manner many other things.

Not being able to walk, they were carried in a wagon from the railroad dépôt to Brown's, and thence by wagon to the St. Nicholas. I saw strong old farmers and sober-sided merchants gazing at the sable creatures, some of them having, no doubt, a holy horror at such a sight. The negroes were well skilled in pantomime, and some of them gave unmistakeable signs that they wanted "something to drink"—putting both hands to their mouths, and throwing their heads back. The *thirty-eight* Africans brought here were the *share*, as I learned, in the venture of a citizen of New-Orleans, and that they cost him, delivered at Savannah, \$50 each—only \$1,900 for *thirty-eight* Africans, sound and able-bodied negroes. They were in charge of a Mr. BRODWAY, who was carrying them to New-Orleans. I said that the negroes were 'all well.' So they are, as well as could be expected, but, as might be conjectured, they were mostly suffering much from disorders incident to acclimation.

For some time the Africans could not be induced to go on board the boat, and seemed much frightened at the smoke, &c. Doubtless they had a perfect horror of traveling on the water again, after having so recently endured a long and crowded sea voyage. The manner in which they were finally induced to go on is worthy of notice. The mate tried every means to get them on board, but to no effect. Finally he concerted a plan with a big, black Alabama negro. He tried to get him to go on board, but he resolutely refused, when the mate laid him down on the gangway-plank, and hit him four or five substantial licks with his ponderous leather strap, when the said Alabama negro got up, yelling awfully, and went straight on board, beckoning to the Africans to follow. And they did follow, to the amusement, and amid the cheers of the crowd."