

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE NEEDS OF LIBERIA.

BY FREDERICK STARR.

The situation of Liberia is critical. Her long-troubling boundary questions with Great Britain and France are not permanently settled; they have been re-opened and both countries are pressing.

We did well to come to her financial aid; but we did badly in needlessly inflicting upon her an *expensive* and *complicated international* receivership instead of an *economical, simple* and *national* one.

Liberia's crying needs are:

*a.* Training of her native frontier force to protect her boundaries and maintain order there;

*b.* Development of existing trails, with their ultimate transformation into roads and railroad beds;

*c.* Restoration and development of agriculture—now neglected;

*d.* Education, especially along lines of manual and technical training.

Liberia's greatest asset is her *native population*; only by imbuing it with the feeling of common interest and by securing its hearty cooperation can the government of Africa's only republic hope to maintain itself and prosper.

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### AN INTERVIEW WITH NAPOLEON.

The personality of the first Napoleon has been transfigured by the awe in which this extraordinary man was held in his lifetime and also in history, so as to make it almost impossible to see or know him as he really was; for even his enemies could not help describing him with features which super-added to his appearance characteristics which were foreign to him. To some he was a hero, to others a demon and anti-Christ, the scourge of God.

With the appearance of the memoir of *Lady John Russell* (edited by Desmond McCarthy and Agatha Russell, and published by John Lane of New York) we have come into possession of a close view of Napoleon which is remarkably realistic. It was written by Lord John Russell, who visited the banished emperor on the Isle of Elba on Christmas eve in 1814. The Memoir says of him: "Lord John was always a most authentic reporter. His description of the emperor, written the next day, is so characteristic of the writer himself that it may be quoted here." It is a pity that the interview breaks off in the middle of a sentence. The account in Lord John's journal reads as follows: