

**ON THE CULTIVATION  
OF LIBERIAN COFFEE  
IN THE WEST INDIES**

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On the Cultivation of Liberian Coffee in the West Indies by H. A. Alford Nicholls

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**H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS**

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IN  
THE WEST INDIES

BY  
H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS, M.D.  
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LONDON  
S. W. SILVER AND CO.  
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AND PARLIAMENT STREET

TO THE MEMORY  
OF THE LATE  
HONOURABLE JOHN IMRAY, M.D.  
&c. &c.  
THIS LITTLE WORK  
IS  
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

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## INTRODUCTION.

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A FEW months ago I undertook to write some notes on the cultivation of Liberian coffee for the Chamber of Agriculture of Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe; and in the course of putting to paper the observations I have made on the plant, and the experience I have gained in its cultivation, the thought occurred to me that this observation and experience might be of service to those agriculturists in various parts of the world who have commenced to plant Liberian coffee.

Just as I was sending the manuscript of my short treatise to England, I received from Mr. Morris his 'Notes on Liberian Coffee, its History and Cultivation,' and for the time I abandoned my intention to publish the results of my experience; but a careful perusal of Mr. Morris's able paper led me to think that my less pretentious production might still be of service, the

delay being so far useful as to enable me to add an appendix giving some welcome information on the commercial value of the new staple.

If my little work proves to be of any use to the Liberian coffee planter, I shall be well repaid for what care I have bestowed upon it; and if any apology be needed for its publication I must plead my earnest desire to continue the efforts of the late Dr. Imray to establish in these lovely West India isles a cultivation that will once more render them the prosperous places their natural advantages fit them to be.

H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS.

ST. AROMENT, DOMINICA :

*March 1861.*

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LIBERIAN coffee, as its name implies, is indigenous to Western Africa, where it was first discovered by Afzelius, who considered it to be a distinct species of the genus *Coffea*, N.O. *Rubiaceæ*. The species was afterwards described by Mr. Hiern in the *Transactions* of the Linnean Society under the appropriate name of *Coffea liberica*, and by this scientific designation it is now universally known.

Origin of  
Liberian  
Coffee.

The plant was first grown in England in the Royal Gardens at Kew during the year 1872, and from thence seedlings were forwarded in 1874 to Dominica and to several of the other colonies in the West Indies. Fortunately for the welfare of Dominica, the late Dr. Imray was then the Kew correspondent in the island, so that the young plants of this valuable species of coffee received from the first the fostering care of one of the ablest of our colonial botanists.

Its introduc-  
tion into the  
West Indies

Fifty years ago Dominica was essentially a coffee country; at one time, indeed, over three millions of