

next crops come in. They are said to be provided with improved agricultural implements, and the colonial enterprise may prove useful to agricultural science in the East, provided that the colonists take the land as they find it, curse or no curse, and devote their energies to developing the agricultural capacity of the soil.

## THE AMERICAN COLONY IN PALESTINE.

The *Tribune* correspondent thus describes the present condition of the colony of **Maine** settlers which, amid such newspaper notoriety, was established in the neighborhood of Jaffa, Palestine.

Mr. Adams—or President Adams, as he styles himself—is the prime mover and prompter of this Yankee emigration from Down East in **Maine** to Down East in Palestine. He organized the colony from members of a peculiar religious sect, called the "Church of the Messiah," who hold, among other points of faith, that they are of the *tribe of Ephraim*, and that, as the curse is now taken off from Palestine, the set time has come for the Lost Ten Tribes to return to their land. A similar sect in England claim that the whole Anglo-Saxon race are Jews of the Lost Ten Tribes. Whether President Adams will allow the whole Anglo-Saxon race in the Ephraimite fold or not I cannot ascertain, but it is more probable that he confines it to that portion of the race who belong to this sect. In a recent sermon he stated that the present colony of 156 are only the vanguard of a mighty host who are soon coming up to possess the land. What he means by the "curse being taken off" the land of Palestine, it is not easy to decide. There are still thorns and thistles and weeds growing on every side. Men still have to get their bread by the sweat of their brow, unless they eat it by the sweat of others' brows, as for example the Ishmaelite brethren, whose chivalrous instinct often lead them to make midnight cavalry raids on their neighbors' thrashing-floors, and thus eat bread without either sowing or reaping. The curse of sickness and death is not yet removed, for nine persons of this same colony have already died within three months of their landing, and others are now in the hospital of Mr. Metzler at Jaffa, undergoing treatment. It is also said that dissatisfaction is arising among some of the colonists, who find there is fully as much "curse," and perhaps more of "cursing" in this Holy Land than they left behind in the land of the **Maine** Law. A considerable part of the men are artisans, workmen, who came to Jaffa with the expectation of finding the land "flowing with milk and honey," and it is quite a shock to their simple faith to find milk only to be bought at two pinstres per ope, and honey hard to be got at any price. Whether from motives of economy, or of religious faith, or because they could not get an educated physician to join the Colony, the fact is the same, that they committed a great error in coming to a strange climate, much warmer than their own, at the beginning of the Spring season, with infirm old men, delicate women and little children, without proper medical attendants. The consequence has been a loss already, as I am credibly informed, of nine out of 157 (one child having been born the day after they landed). This is an enormous percentage, when it is remembered that the most unhealthy season at Jaffa is during the Summer months. The Colony is rich in office bearers, having one President and two bishops. They confidently believe that they are fulfilling prophecy in this vanguard occupation of the sacred soil, and that they are about to reconstruct the disjointed territory of Palestine, and restore its pristine glory. They say they have not come to convert the Moslems, or Arabs, or Greeks, or Maronites. They are a close religious corporation, quite unconcerned as to what becomes of the poor Gentiles who happen to own and occupy almost every acre of the Ephraimite inheritance.

Fortunately for them, the Turkish authorities have thus far put no obstacles in their way. Through the kind interference of the English and American Consuls in Jerusalem, the Turkish Pasha saw it to be for his own personal interest to do these unoffending Colonists every favor in his power. Accordingly, when they landed, all Jaffa arose to meet them. All their goods and chattels, lumber and furniture, were allowed to be landed free of duty, and facilities were furnished them for getting settled in their new homes. They had secured land before their arrival, through the American Vice-Consul in Jaffa, who bought it in the name of a subject of the Sultan, as is the custom in Turkey, foreigners not being allowed to hold property there in their own name. The purchaser afterwards signs a paper in the American Consulate, that he made the purchase not for himself but for A. or B., and giving up all claim, right or title to the same. In this way the colonies have secured land near the city of Jaffa, and are getting settled in their wooden houses, which, I fear, they will find wholly unfit for protection against the blazing sun of an Eastern Summer. There are rumors already that some of the colonists are getting disgusted, and wish to return home, but the Nellie Chapin who brought them, has gone, and they are in for a serious attempt to make their experiment successful. The colony had ample funds at the beginning, but they have invested so largely in land that their resources may begin to fail before the