
Henry S. Marks

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This is Wiley's last work and this alone makes the book important. Wiley, who died in April, 1980, is one of the most important authors of Southern history, having written such works as "The Life of Johnny Reb," and "The Life of Billy Yank." Here Wiley introduces and edits letters from Liberia written to the states by former slaves here. The introductions are excellent and the letters both fascinating and poignant.

Between 1820 and 1861, more than 12,000 American Blacks emigrated to Liberia, and their problems are quite evident in these letters.