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MEMORIAL

OF THE

AMERICAN SOCIETY

FOR

COLONIZING THE FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 29, 1827.

Referred to a select Committee

WASHINGTON:

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1827.

MEMORIAL.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The Memorial of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Color of the United States,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS,

That, in the year 1816, a number of respectable individuals formed themselves into a society, at the seat of the National Government, for the purpose of promoting the voluntary colonization of the Free People of Color of the United States, in Africa, or elsewhere; and soon afterwards adopted preparatory measures for the accomplishment of their purpose. With this view, suitable persons were sent to the Southwestern coast of Africa, with instructions to visit the British settlement of Sierra Leone, and other places in the vicinity, to select a proper location for the proposed colony, and to ascertain how far reliance might be placed on the favorable disposition of the native tribes; and from these commissioners a report was received of the most encouraging character. After some further inquiries, and preparatory efforts, a small colony was sent out, in the year 1820, and placed on Sherbro Island as a temporary residence, until possession could be obtained of a neighbouring tract of land on the continent, which the natives had promised to sell. The performance of this promise was delayed and evaded under various pretexts, for a considerable time, during which the health of the colony suffered very materially from the low, flat, and marshy ground of Sherbro, where they were compelled to continue their residence much longer than had been anticipated. At length, however, the agents of the Government of the United States, employed to select a suitable situation for recaptured Africans, effected, in conjunction with those of the Colonization Society, the purchase of an extensive territory at the mouth of Montserado river, including the cape and bay of that river, and there the colony has been established. The soil is fertile, the land elevated nearly one hundred feet above the sea, the climate as healthy as any in Africa, and the anchorage in the bay and roadstead not inferior to any on the whole coast. The distance from the flourishing colony at Sierra Leone is between two and three hundred miles. The natives in the vicinity are divided into a great number of small and nearly independent tribes; and being but slightly held together by any superior authority, may be considered as wholly incapable of uniting to any serious extent, for purposes of hostility. In a single instance an attack was made on the colony, while in its feeblest condition; but the facility with which it was repelled, renders the future security of

the colony from similar attacks, unquestionable, under its probable increase of population, and the improved means of defence with which it has already been provided. The conduct of the natives, indeed, is now of the most peaceable and friendly character; and their kindness and confidence has been considerably increased by the return of several individuals of distinction among the neighboring tribes, who had been taken from a Spanish slave ship, and after receiving in America the most friendly attentions, were restored by the American Government to the homes from which they had been torn.

Notwithstanding the difficulties inseparable from the opening and first settlement of distant and uncultivated regions, difficulties increased on the present occasion by the scanty means to be drawn from the only sources of supply open to the society, the colony has annually increased in population, and now contains nearly six hundred individuals; a government has been established, provided, as far as practicable, with the necessary securities for life, liberty and property. Schools are opened for the instruction of natives as well as colonists; lands have been cleared and partitioned among the settlers, and an annual product may soon be anticipated adequate to the comfortable supply not only of those who have already emigrated, but of those also who may hereafter be induced to seek for happiness and independence in the land of their fathers, and in a home of their own. For more full and detailed information concerning the colony, the society refer to the accompanying report. Such is a general outline of the operations of the society, and such the present condition of the colony. In the progress that has been made, your memorialists have found nothing to discourage them, and from the actual state of things which they have thus been enabled to present to the view of your honorable body, they derive the pleasing anticipation of being able to demonstrate to the world, that they are engaged in an enterprise neither unwise nor impracticable. In the course of a few short years, a small number of respectable individuals, actuated only by the most philanthropic motives, possessing no political power, and destitute of all pecuniary resources, except such as were to be found in the charity, the benevolence, and the patriotism of their fellow citizens, have succeeded in exploring a distant coast, in overcoming in a great measure the very natural but very powerful prejudices of the community in which they live, and in transplanting to the Western shores of Africa, and maintaining in a state of perfect security, a colony of several hundred of the free colored population of their country. But a period has at length arrived when the society would no longer be justified in relying on its own limited resources for accomplishing what yet remains of its patriotic undertaking.

The colony that has been settled, small as it is, is yet too large to be governed by a distant and unincorporated society. If the acknowledged imperfections of human nature, and the uniform history of mankind, did not evince the dangers necessarily connected with the sudden transition of any people from a state of moral and political degradation to one of unqualified freedom, the experience of the British

colony at Sierra Leone would sufficiently demonstrate how utterly fallacious must be all reliance on political restrictions, deriving their only sanction from the voluntary submission of a population such as that of which the colony at Liberia will be composed. And if, with these evidences before it, the society should leave its infant settlement to the inadequate protection to be derived from its own resources, it would be justly chargeable with all the evils that must necessarily result from the defective powers of control with which it is invested.

In reference too to the great objects to be accomplished, it is now time to look to other means than such as can be supplied by individual charity. The extent to which reliance may be placed on this resource has been in a great measure ascertained; and if, at the very commencement of the undertaking, aided as it has been by all the charms of novelty, means have been furnished for removing only a few hundred out of the many thousands that are annually added to the free colored population of the country, it is obvious that, a further dependence on this resource, would be little less than an abandonment of the enterprise. The evil to be removed is continually increasing, while the means for its removal are proportionably diminished: and with every exertion on the part of the Colonization Society, unless access can be had to other resources, each succeeding year must find it more remote from the object of its pursuit. Under these circumstances, the society has felt itself justified in asking the immediate and effectual interposition of the Government of the country. The object it proposes to accomplish, is the removal to the coast of Africa, with their own consent, of such people of color, within the United States, as are already free, and of such others as the humanity of individuals, and the laws of the different States, may hereafter liberate. Such an object, connected as it is with the justice, the humanity, and the welfare of our country, and calculated to elevate the character, and to improve the condition of a very degraded portion of the human race, cannot fail to be considered as one of deep and general interest; and the wisdom of the National Legislature may be safely relied on for suggesting and applying the necessary means for its accomplishment. Your memorialists confidently trust that in this explicit avowal of the real and only design of the American Colonization Society, will be found its best vindication from the contradictory imputations cast upon it, of attempting at the same moment, and by the same process, to interfere, on the one hand, with the legal obligations of slavery, and on the other, to rivet the chains more firmly than ever on its present subjects. The society has at all times recognized the constitutional and legitimate existence of slavery; and whatever may have been thought of its unhappy influence on the general interests of the country, the Government of the Union has never been looked to as the proper or authorized instrument for effecting its removal. But to that Government it has been thought that resort might be had for furnishing the means of voluntary emigration to another description of population exercising a confessedly injurious influence on every portion of our country, but especially so on those parts of it in which

slavery still exists. And if, in relation to the latter, the effect of such a measure should be to afford to individual humanity a wider field for action, and to the State authorities an opportunity and an inducement to encourage rather than to forbid emancipation within their respective limits, your memorialists have hoped that this consideration alone, instead of prejudicing their present application, would operate as one of its most powerful recommendations. And that such would be the case with the nation they have every reason to believe. The reception which the Colonization Society has met, in almost every instance, from the people, bespeaks a deep and general interest in its success. And the resolutions which have been adopted by a very large proportion of the Legislatures of the States, in favor of the plan of colonizing the free people of color, indicate it as an object entitled in every respect to the aid and patronage of a Government whose peculiar province it is, in the exercise of its legitimate powers, "to provide for the common defence, and to promote the general welfare" of the country over which it presides. To that Government the question is now fairly submitted, in the fullest confidence that it will receive the consideration due to its importance, and a decision worthy of the Legislature of a free, a great, and an enlightened nation.

REPORT

of the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society, presented at its Annual Meeting, January 13, 1827.

Ten years have now elapsed, since a few individuals assembled in this city, and deliberately formed themselves into an Institution for the purpose of establishing a Colony of the Free People of Color of the United States on the Coast of Africa.

An enterprise of such a nature, so vast in conception, various in its relations, and remote in its consequences and its benefits, was seen to be involved in uncertainty, because relying for its full execution upon the aid of those whose approbation could not reasonably be expected, until created by other evidences of its utility than those which the scheme, as merely theoretic, presented to the public mind.

But should the means be contributed for demonstrating, experimentally, the utility of the plans of the Society, so far as the actual establishment of a colony on the African coast could be regarded as such demonstration, still, it was manifest that on the delicate but momentous question of probable effects of this colony upon the condition and interests of the great mass of our colored population, two opinions would be adopted, entirely contradictory, and both, therefore, widely varying from the real purposes and hopes of the Institution.

The want of satisfactory information concerning the soil, climate, and natives, of Africa, and the methods most expedient to be adopted

for the acquisition of territory, and the very general aversion of the free People of color to a design which all of them could feel to be hazardous but which few could comprehend; increasing, as it necessarily must, the indifference of those of our citizens, who are governed rather by sympathy than reflection, constituted obstacles truly formidable, but which it was impossible to avoid.

It may not, perhaps, be irrelevant to the present occasion to consider for a moment by what motives and arguments the founders of this Society were enabled to sustain themselves in their earliest efforts for a cause embarrassed by difficulties so numerous and immense, and so destitute of attraction to the eye of an ordinary observer.

There was a moral grandeur in the design itself, which rendered the bare possibility of its accomplishment a motive sufficient to justify every possible exertion. It presented itself in relations infinitely important to those whom it would remove from our shores; was seen connected with the domestic happiness, social order, political strength, and all the higher interests of our country; and seemed to offer the only hope of rescuing Africa from the invaders of her rights and the murderers of her children; and of imparting to her tribes, whose sable aspect is but the shadow of a darker mind, the pure and undying light of our religion.

In the operations of the Society it was obvious that the principal difficulties must be encountered at the outset. That a few enlightened citizens might be induced to furnish the means for exploring the coast of Africa, there was reason to hope; and a favorable report from those delegated for this purpose could not fail to secure aid for the emigration of such intelligent and energetic adventurers as have never been found wanting to enterprises of the most arduous and dangerous character. Every practical movement of the Society would draw the public attention to its plans; and, if successful, exhibit evidence of their utility which no developement of a theory, however plausible, could produce. Accounts from Africa would be perused by all; by the fanciful and inquisitive for the novelty of their statements; by the thoughtful and pious, to learn the character of its inhabitants, and the best methods of instructing them in the principles of our faith. Thus reflection would be excited, and the objects of the Society become better understood; a knowledge of their nature would secure belief in their importance; the spirit of charity would advance with the progress of conviction; truth and time would soften down prejudice; and, through the agency of the press, unremitted efforts, and fervent prayer, the thoughts which dwelt at first in the breasts of a few might finally enlist the sympathies and command the powers of the nation.

Animated by such considerations, the original Managers of this Society resolved to proceed, and the history of their operations for the last ten years, as detailed in their Annual Reports, will show the sobriety of their purposes, and the reasonableness of their hopes.

The facts connected with the efforts of the Society during the last year, and now to be presented to this Meeting, will add, the Managers trust, no little weight to the accumulated evidence heretofore ad-

duced, of the practicableness and expediency of the scheme in which they are engaged.

It was stated by the Managers, in their last Report, that the liberality of their friends had enabled them to despatch for the Colony the brig Vine with thirty four emigrants, a missionary, and printer, accompanied by the Rev. Horace Sessions, an Agent of the Society, who proposed to return in the same vessel: and that the Indian Chief was about to depart from Norfolk with a much larger number of passengers. The first of these vessels sailed from Boston on the fourth of January, and arrived at Liberia on the seventh of February; the last left Norfolk on the 15th of February, and completed her passage on the 22d of March.

A printing press, with all its necessary appendages, many valuable books, and other articles of equal importance, were shipped on board the Vine by the citizens of Boston, who evinced still farther their liberality, by assuming the whole expense of the printing establishment for the first year. Eighteen of the emigrants by this vessel were, just before their departure, at their own request, organized into a church, and the impressive exercises of the occasion, upon which thousands attended with heartfelt interest, deepened the concern for the prosperity of the expedition. But the counsels of Heaven are too mysterious for human scrutiny, and the Almighty was pleased to visit this little company with a mortality unprecedented in the history of the Colony. Scarcely had the Managers seen announced in the first sheet ever issued from the Colonial press, the arrival of the Vine, before they received the mournful tidings of the decease of the Rev. Horace Sessions, Mr. Charles L. Force, the printer, and twelve of the emigrants, with whom others must now be reckoned, including the missionary, the Rev. Calvin Holton, making in all nearly half the whole number of those who embarked from New England. But the attention of the Meeting is not left to dwell upon this melancholy statement.

The Indian Chief conveyed to Africa one hundred and fifty-four persons, of which one hundred and thirty-nine were from the State of North Carolina. Not an individual of the latter number suffered materially from sickness, while some who left Norfolk in bad health, derived, ultimately, benefit from the change of climate. All felt more or less severely the symptoms of fever, ague, and prostration of strength, which the system must necessarily experience, on a transition from a temperate to a tropical climate; but they soon recovered their vigor, and proceeded to the erection of buildings, and the clearing of their lands.

As both these expeditions sailed from the United States in the Winter, the striking contrast in their subsequent condition is doubtless owing, in a great measure, to the wide difference in the change experienced by the two companies of emigrants; a difference which must be estimated by comparing the less constitutional liability to tropical disease, and the lesser influence of the season affecting those from the

South, with the greater liability, and the more powerful influence of the season to which those from the North were exposed. It has been very justly remarked by the Colonial Agent, that as it would be rash for our friends in North Carolina to conclude that no emigrant from that State will hereafter suffer from the African climate, so it would be equally wide from sober calculation for the citizens of New England to determine, from a single experiment, that every similar movement would be attended with a like calamity.

The health of the Colonists (those who arrived in the Vine excepted,) has been well nigh universal and uninterrupted, and no less animated and robust than that which they enjoyed in America. Among the passengers in the Indian Chief, the symptoms of disease were, in many instances, only sufficiently developed to show their specific character, and in nearly every case, yielded readily to the power of medicine. Many of the children and youth exhibit as much activity and muscular strength as the natives themselves; and "the adults who have resided for some years in the Colony, seem to acquire for the climate a peculiar predilection." The natives of the coast are remarkable for their vigorous and well proportioned frames, which are seldom broken or debilitated by disease. Probably no race of men enjoy health more uniformly, or in greater perfection. It is a fact also well ascertained, and peculiarly encouraging in reference to the African climate, that the country gradually rises from the sea-board into the interior, and that between these two regions, there exists a difference, both in temperature and elevation, nearly resembling what is found in our own Southern States.

The System of Government, established with the full consent of the Colonists, in the Autumn of 1824, and which the Managers had the happiness to represent in their last Report, as having thus far fulfilled all the purposes of its institution, has continued its operations during the year without the least irregularity, and with undiminished success. The republican principle is introduced as far as is consistent with the youthful and unformed character of the settlement, and, in the election of their officers, the Colonists have evinced such integrity and judgment as afford promise of early preparation for all the duties of self-government. "The civil prerogatives and government of the Colony and the body of the laws by which they are sustained," says the Colonial Agent, "are the pride of all. I am happy in the persuasion I have, that I hold the balance of the laws in the midst of a people, with whom the first perceptible inclination of the sacred scale determines authoritatively, their sentiments and their conduct. There are individual exceptions, but these remarks extend to the body of the settlers."

The moral and religious character of the Colony, exerts a powerful influence on its social and civil condition. That piety which had guided most of the early emigrants to Liberia, even before they left this country, to respectability and usefulness among their associates, prepared them, in laying the foundations of a Colony, to act with a degree of wisdom and energy which no earthly motives could inspire.

Humble, and for the most part unlettered men; born and bred in circumstances the most unfavorable to mental culture; unsustained by the hope of renown, and unfamiliar with the history of great achievements and heroic virtues, their's was nevertheless a spirit unmoved by dangers or by sufferings, which misfortunes could not darken, nor death dismay. They left America, and felt that it was forever; they landed in Africa, possibly to find a home, but certainly a grave. Strange would it have been had the religion of every individual of these early settlers proved genuine; but immensely changed as have been their circumstances and severely tried their faith, most have preserved untarnished the honors of their profession, and to the purity of their morals and the consistency of their conduct, is in a great measure to be attributed the social order and general prosperity of the Colony of Liberia. Their example has proved most salutary; and while subsequent emigrants have found themselves awed and restrained, by their regularity, seriousness, and devotion, the poor natives have given their confidence and acknowledge the excellence of practical Christianity. "It deserves record," says Mr. Ashmun, "that religion has been the principal agent employed in laying and confirming the foundations of the settlement. To this sentiment, ruling, restraining, and actuating the minds of a large proportion of the Colonists, must be referred the whole strength of our civil government." Examples of intemperance, profaneness, or licentiousness, are extremely rare, and vice, wherever it exists, is obliged to seek concealment from the public eye. The Sabbath is universally respected; Sunday schools, both for the children of the Colony and for the natives, are established: all classes attend regularly upon the worship of God; some charitable associations have been formed for the benefit of the Heathen: and though it must not be concealed, that the deep concern on the subject of religion, which resulted, towards the conclusion of the year 1825, in the public profession of Christianity by about fifty Colonists, has in a measure subsided, and some few cases of delinquency since occurred: and though there are faults growing out of the early condition and habits of the settlers which require amendment: yet the Managers have reason to believe, that there is a vast and increasing preponderance on the side of correct principle and virtuous practice. One gratifying instance has occured in which two Methodist Societies, long separated, have been induced by juster views, unanimously to unite in the same discipline and worship. On *this* subject the Managers will only add, that the moral interests of the Colony have been most essentially promoted by the eminent piety and labors of its ministers.

The agriculture of the Colony has received less attention than its importance demands. This is to be attributed to the fact, that the labor of the settlers has been applied to objects conducing more immediately to their subsistence and comfort. They have been too much occupied in the construction of houses and public buildings, and in conducting a profitable traffic with the natives, to leave much time to make permanent improvements on their plantations. The best

methods of cultivation appear to be imperfectly understood, and the lands which were early cleared on the Cape are inferior to those more recently surveyed and allotted to emigrants on the St. Paul's. Crops which exhibited the fairest promise, until near the time of harvest, have been severely injured by the various and numerous animals and insects which inhabit the neighboring forests. "The cultivation of a larger number of contiguous farms will tend to preserve them all from depredations," and these destroyers can hardly retain their "accustomed haunts" another season.

It will not, the Board trust, be concluded that, because more might have been done for the agricultural interests of the Colony, what has been effected is inconsiderable. Two hundred and twenty-four plantations, of from five to ten acres each, were, in June last, occupied by the settlers, and most of them are believed to be at present under cultivation. One hundred and fourteen of these are on Cape Montserado, thirty-three on Stockton creek, (denominated the Halfway Farms, because nearly equidistant from Monrovia and Caldwell, the St. Paul's settlement, and seventy-seven at the confluence of Stockton creek with St. Pauls.

The St. Paul's Territory includes the Halfway Farms, and is represented as a beautiful tract of country, comparatively open, well watered, and fertile, and still further recommended as having been, for ages, selected by the natives on account of its productiveness for their rice and cassada plantations. The agricultural habits of the present occupants of this tract, concur with the advantages of their situation, in affording promise of success to their exertions. "Nothing," says the Colonial Agent, "but circumstances of the most extraordinary nature, can prevent them from making their way directly to respectability and abundance."

Oxen were trained to labor in the Colony in 1825, and it was then expected that the plough would be introduced in the course of another year. Although commerce has thus far taken the lead of agriculture, yet the excellence of the soil, the small amount of labor required for its cultivation, and the value and abundance of its products, cannot fail, finally, to render the latter the more cherished, as it is certainly, the more important interest of the Colony.

The Trade of Liberia has increased with a rapidity almost unexampled, and while it has supplied the Colonists not only with the necessaries, but with the conveniences and comforts of life, the good faith with which it has been conducted has conciliated the friendship of the natives, and acquired the confidence of foreigners.

The regulations of the Colony allowing no credits, except by written permission, and requiring the barter to be carried on through factories established for the purpose, has increased the profits of the traffic, and prevented numerous evils which must have attended upon a more unrestricted license.

Between the 1st of January and the 15th of July, 1826, no less than fifteen vessels touched at Monrovia and purchased the produce of the country, to the amount, according to the best probable estimate,

of $ 43.980, African value. The exporters of this produce realize, on the sale of the goods given in barter for it, a profit of $ 21,990, and on the freight, of $ 8,786, making a total profit of $ 30,786.

A gentleman in Portland has commenced a regular trade with the Colony, and for his last cargo landed in Liberia, amounting to $ 8,000, he received payment in the course of ten days. The advantages of this trade to the Colony are manifest from the high price of labor, (that of mechanics being two dollars per day, and that of common laborers from 75 cents to $ 1 25,) and from the easy and comfortable circumstances of the settlers. "An interesting family, twelve months in Africa, destitute of the means of furnishing an abundant table, is not known; and an individual, of whatever age or sex, without an ample provision of decent apparel, cannot, it is believed, be found." "Every family," says Mr. Ashmun, "and nearly every single adult person in the Colony, has the means of employing from one to four native laborers, at an expense of from four to six dollars the month; and several of the settlers, when called upon in consequence of sudden emergencies of the public service, have made repeated advances of merchantable produce, to the amount of 300 to 600 dollars each."

The Managers are happy to state, that the efforts of the Colonial Agent to enlarge the TERRITORY of Liberia, and particularly to bring under the government of the Colony a more extended line of coast, have been judicious and energetic, and, in nearly every instance, resulted in complete success. From Cape Mount to Trade-town, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, the Colonial Government has acquired partial jurisdiction. FOUR of the most important STATIONS on this tract, including Montserado, belong to the Society, either by actual purchase, or by a deed of perpetual lease; and such negotiations have been entered upon with the chiefs of the country, as amount to a preclusion of all Europeans from any possessions within these limits. The fine Territory of the St. Paul's, now occupied by settlers, was described in the last annual report of the Society.

The Territory of Young Sesters, recently ceded to the Society, is ninety miles South of Montserado, in the midst of a very productive rice country, affording, also, large quantities of palm oil, camwood, and ivory. The tract granted to the Colony includes the bed of the Sesters river, and all the land on each side, to the distance of half a league, and extending longitudinally from the river's mouth to its source. In compliance with the terms of the contract, the Chief of the country has constructed a commodious store house, and put a number of laborers sufficient for the cultivation of a rice plantation of forty acres, under the direction of a respectable colonist, who takes charge of the establishment.

The right of use and occupancy has also been obtained to a region of country on the South branch of the St. John's river. North nine miles from Young Sesters, and the trading factory established there, under the superintendence of a family from Monrovia, has already

proved a valuable source of income to the Colony. Rice is also here to be cultivated, and the Chief who cedes the territory agrees to furnish the labor.

The upright and exemplary conduct of the individual at the head of this establishment, has powerfully impressed the natives with the superiority of civilized and Christian men, and with the importance of inviting them to settle in their country: and, consequently, the offer made by the Colonial Agent, for the purchase of Factory Island, has been accepted by its proprietor. This Island is in the river St. John's, four miles from its mouth, from five to six miles in length, and one third of a mile in breadth, and is among the most beautiful and fertile spots in Africa. A few families are about to take up their residence upon it, and prepare for founding a settlement, "which cannot fail," says Mr. Ashmun, "in a few years, to be second to no other in the Colony, except Monrovia."

Negotiations are also in progress with the Chiefs of Cape Mount, which, if successful, will secure to the Colony the whole trade of that station, estimated at $ 50,000 per annum, and may ultimately lead to its annexation to the Territories of Liberia. "The whole country between Cape Mount and Trade Town," observes Mr. Ashmun, "is rich in soil and other natural advantages, and capable of sustaining a numerous and civilized population beyond almost any other country on earth. Leaving the sea-board, the traveller, every where, at the distance of a very few miles, enters upon a uniform upland country, of moderate elevation, intersected by innumerable rivulets, abounding in springs of unfailing water, and covered with a verdure which knows no other changes except those which refresh and renew its beauties. The country directly on the sea, although verdant and fruitful to a high degree, is found every where to yield in both respects, to the interior."

Much progress has been made the last year in the construction of public buildings and works of defence, though, with adequate supplies of lumber, more might doubtless have been accomplished. Two handsome churches, erected solely by the colonists, now adorn the village of Monrovia. Fort Stockton has been rebuilt in a style of strength and beauty. A receptacle capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty emigrants is completed. The New Agency House, Market House, Lancasterian School, and Town House in Monrovia, were, some months since, far advanced, and the finishing strokes were about to be given to the Government House on the St. Paul's. The wing of the Old Agency House has been "handsomely fitted up for the Colonial Library, which now consists of 1200 volumes, systematically arranged in glazed cases, with appropriate hangings. All the books are substantially covered, and accurately labelled; and files of more than ten newspapers, more or less complete, are preserved. The library is fitted up so as to answer the purpose of a reading-room, and it is intended to make it a museum of all the natural curiosities of Africa, which can be procured."

No efforts have been spared to place the Colony in a state of adequate defence, and while it is regarded as perfectly secure from the native forces, it is hoped and believed that it may sustain itself against any piratical assaults. "The establishment has fifteen large carriage guns, and three small pivot guns, all fit for service." Fort Stockton overlooks the whole town of Monrovia, and a strong double battery is now building on the height of Thompson Town, near the extremity of the Cape, which it is thought will afford protection to vessels anchoring in the roadstead. The militia of the Colony consists of two corps, appropriately uniformed, one of Artillery, of about fifty men, the other of Infantry, of forty men, and on various occasions have they proved themselves deficient neither in discipline nor courage.

It is impossible for the Managers to express the regret excited by the reflection that the system of education in the Colony, second as it is to no one of its interests, is extremely defective, and that the best endeavors to improve it have, for the present, been arrested by the ordinations of an all-wise but mysterious Providence. Several primary schools continue in operation, but the ability of the teachers is only equal to the communication of the mere rudiments of knowledge. The plan of instruction commenced by the Rev. Mr. Holton, promised inestimable benefits, but his sudden and lamented decease has shaded the prospect which seemed so fairly opening, for the intellectual improvement of the Colony. It is hoped, that men of color may be found, qualified to act in the capacity of teachers, and thus prevent the recurrence of so sad a disappointment. Regarding this subject as one of vital interest, the Managers will not fail to give to it the most sedulous and unremitted attention.

It is a fact, which cannot fail to awaken in this meeting the deepest concern, that the records of the Colony afford abundant and unequivocal evidence of the undiminished extent and atrocity of the African Slave Trade. From eight to ten, and even fifteen vessels have been engaged at the same time in this odious traffic, almost within reach of the guns of Liberia; and as late as July, 1825, there were "existing contracts for eight hundred slaves, to be furnished in the short space of four months," within eight miles of Monrovia. Four hundred of these were to be purchased for two American slavers. A boat belonging to a Frenchman, having on board twenty-six slaves, all in irons, was, in September, 1825, upset in the mouth of the St. Paul's, and twenty of their number perished. This is one of the lesser scenes of tragedy, says the Colonial Agent, which are daily acting in this wretched country. But the crimes of these lawless invaders of human liberty are not confined to their acknowledged profession; they defy the laws of all civilized nations, and engage in every species of piracy.

The crew of a Spanish schooner recently boarded and robbed an English brig, lying at anchor off Cape Montserado, the captain of the latter being at the time in Monrovia. The aid of the Colonial Agent was invoked for the punishment of the offence, who felt himself obliged, from regard to his own safety, not to leave unnoticed so fla-

grant a violation of the law of nations. The offer of a number of the Colonial militia, to proceed immediately to take possession of the factory built by the master of the piratical vessel, a few miles from Monrovia was accepted, and the expedition resulted in the capture of fourteen slaves, and the entire destruction of the establishment. A few of the poor Africans thus relieved from their manacles, ignorant of the language of the settlement, and unable to appreciate the motives which led to their capture, and the benevolence which was still operating for their benefit, fled from the Colony, and were soon after taken by the natives, and sold to a Frenchman who was then employed in purchasing slaves on the St. Paul's. When their situation was made known, the Colonial Agent demanded that they should immediately be delivered over to the authorities of the Colony. A peremptory refusal having been made to this demand, it was judged necessary to attempt their recovery by force, which was speedily effected, and possession at the same time obtained of the whole number of slaves at the factory, amounting in all to ninety nine.

About the same time, two or three others of these recaptured Africans, who had escaped from the Colony, were conveyed by the natives to a factory at Trade Town, a slave mart, 100 miles South of Cape Montserado, and the most notorious one existing between Cape Palmas and Sierra Leone.

An effort to recover these individuals peaceably proved entirely unsuccessful. It was known, also, that one of the three vessels then waiting for their complement of slaves at Trade Town, had committed various piratical acts since her arrival on the coast. Justified, therefore, as was believed, by those principles of right which ought to govern all human actions, the agent, attended with thirty-two volunteers from the Colony, assisted by the Colombian armed schooner Jacinta, Captain Chase, immediately embarked for Trade Town, detained the two vessels, (the third having been previously captured by a French brig of war,) effected a landing, seized fifty-three slaves, and reduced all the stores and buildings of the factory to ashes.

These bold and energetic measures have done much towards the exclusion of the slave trade from this part of Africa, and have, indeed, banished it entirely, (at least for the present,) from the whole district of country between Cape Mount and Trade Town. But the managers cannot hope that a traffic so long established, so gainful, so extensive, and which enlists in its support so many of the deep and malignant vices of the heart, will be exterminated, without more decided and combined measures, than have ever yet been adopted by the Powers of the Christain world.

The influence of the Colony with the natives is great and increasing, and resulting, as it does, principally from the integrity and kindness manifested towards them by the colonial government in all its transactions, may be expected to be permanent. They begin to feel the superior advantages of civilized life, and to secure, through the settlement, by lawful trade, those articles which were formerly

acquired only by the sale of their brethren. "No man of the least consideration in the country," says Mr. Ashmun, "will desist from his importunities until one at least of his sons is fixed in some settler's family. We have their confidence and friendship, and these built on the fullest conviction that we are incapable of betraying the one, or violating the other."

Here the managers pause to pay a mournful and affectionate tribute of respect to the memory of the dead: the Rev. Horace Sessions, the Rev. Calvin Holton, and Mr. Charles L. Force; the two former Agents of the Society, and the latter employed as printer for the African Colony, have been called from the field of toil, on which they had but just commenced exertions most honorable to themselves, and useful to the Society, to the invisible and eternal world. Mr. Sessions superintended the embarkation of the emigrants by the Vine, and accompanied them to Liberia, in the hope of acquiring information which might enable him more successfully to prosecute an Agency for the Society in the United States. Mr. Holton had devoted himself, with a martyr's spirit, to Africa, and his instructions and missionary labors in the Colony promised greatly to advance its literary, moral, and religious interests. But the will of Heaven has removed them, and to that will it becomes us to bow in humble confidence that He who prepared them for usefulness in life, will not leave to perish the influence of their example.

The events which have occurred in the United States during the year, favorable to this institution, are too numerous to be given in detail, and too important to be left unnoticed. They have been such as must confirm the faith of the wavering, strengthen the confidence of the irresolute, and stimulate the decided friends of our cause to higher and nobler exertions.

The number of subscribers to the African Repository and Colonial Journal, has very much increased: and it is circulated at present in nearly every State of the Union.

The managers have heard with pleasure that an institution, denominated the Kosciusko School, has been founded in New Jersey, and that one of its prominent objects is, to qualify young men of color for usefulness in Liberia. The name of Kosciusko is associated with this school, in honor of that illustrious individual, who, on his final departure from America, intrusted to Mr. Jefferson a fund to be applied by him to the purchase and education of African slaves, which fund is, on certain conditions, to be appropriated to the benefit of this seminary, which will long stand, we trust, a monument of the charity of that noble foreigner, whose valor and services, in the cause of freedom and humanity, are revered throughout our country and the civilized world.

The free people of color are becoming more generally and decidedly favorable to the views of the Society, and many of the best informed and most industrious have resolved upon an early removal to Liberia. In Baltimore they have recently, in a memorial to the whites, implored the means of emigration, and expressed their full conviction of the benevolence and wisdom of the plans of the Society.

The clergy of nearly all denominations have taken occasion, on the anniversary of our national Independence, or on the sabbath immediately preceding or succeeding that day, to explain to their congregations our design, and solicit contributions in its behalf, the amount of which has, it is believed, exceeded any similar collections in former years.

The brig Doris is now preparing to sail to Liberia, with a considerable number of emigrants, most of whom are from North Carolina.

The Reports of the Agents employed by the Society in different sections of the country, are of the most encouraging character, and prove, that a deep, rapid, and extensive change, favorable to the interests of this Institution, is taking place in the public mind. More than twenty Auxiliary Societies have been formed in the course of the year. Among these, is the *Colonization Society of the State of Pennsylvania*, which, from its situation, (Philadelphia,) the energy with which it has commenced operation, and the liberality which has thus early been evinced in its support, may be expected to act very effectively in aid of our cause.

The Managers are peculiarly gratified to know, that the citizens of the Western States begin highly to appreciate the objects of the Society, and that they are almost unanimously disposed to countenance and sustain them. They have this day received intelligence of the organization of a State Society, in Ohio, under circumstances so cheering, as to justify the prediction, that it will prove among the most important Auxiliaries in the Union.

In conclusion, may not the Managers be permitted to express the hope, that this work, so auspiciously commenced, but for the completion of which, private charity must prove inadequate, appealing, as it does, equally to our duty and interest—to the Christian, who recognises in man, wherever he is found, an heir of immortality—to the Statesman, who would build up his country's glory on her justice and magnanimity,—may be regarded as strictly national, worthy of the most earnest attention and liberal patronage of the Legislatures of the several States, and of the Federal Government.