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ANNUAL MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT PAYNE.

*Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:*

The arrival of the period for the meeting of the Legislature of the Republic enables me to congratulate you that you have been preserved, and are still found in your places of duty and responsibility.

We should feel profoundly grateful to the God of all mercies who, in the visitations of His inscrutable dispensations, continues the evidences of his care and kindness unto us. Notwithstanding the peculiarity of the seasons of the year, the health of our communities has been good; notwithstanding the restlessness of some portions of our aboriginal population, the peace of the country has not been materially disturbed, so that we realize our expectation of a good harvest of the staff of life, and have fine prospects of exportable produce from the agricultural operations of the year. Our mercantile interests have been prosecuted with great assiduity, and the success with which they have been crowned has demonstrated the ability of Liberia to give the native population of our entire coast all the supplies they require, while it has also made apparent the propriety and the practicability of our merchants taking the products of the coast directly into foreign markets, and there selling them to an advantage not to be expected from the system of barter on the coast.

We should, I repeat, be very thankful for so many proofs of the goodness of God, without whom they labor in vain that build. His unsearchable providence has deprived us during the year of two members of your body, whose loss no true friend of his country will fail to deplore. The Honorable John H. Paxton, of the Senate, and the Honorable Thomas Moore, of the House, were men that circumstances never mature in a day. Having served their country long in various capacities, and finally in that of legislators, they had, joined to good natural abilities and acquirements, an experience rich and eminently useful to their country. We lament their early departure from our midst, but we must submit to the doings of

infinite wisdom, and trust with firmness in Him to sustain, guide, and prosper us.

#### INCENTIVES TO DUTY.

In doing this it becomes us to avail ourselves of all the means to labor efficiently, to proceed safely, and to prosper commensurately in the prosecution of our work.

If there is any sentiment I would impress at this time upon the citizens of the Republic through their Representatives, it is this: we should not consider ourselves beyond danger because we have sustained our institutions so far. Our history is too brief; our existence too recent; our situation too peculiar to so consider ourselves.

Whether we contemplate the heathenism which surrounds us, or the circumstances of our position, or the accessibility of our race from any quarter from which they may come to us, we should not divest ourselves of that degree of apprehension which quickens caution and watchfulness over the operation of our institutions so as to secure them from decay and disruption. I do not refer to a change of the form of Government merely, which might result, if not from deliberate choice in the people, from revolution or civil strife, but to a disappearance as a civilized state, to a failure in our undertaking to maintain such a Government, which might result from such lawlessness, such disregard for the administration of justice; such an abandonment of the ideas of a civilized and Christian people as might constrain individuals and communities to separate and vainly endeavor to sustain distinct institutions where only unitedly they are able to stand.

I would, fellow-citizens, notwithstanding the hopefulness that animates me, or the signs of progress and prosperity which encourage me, impress this idea! As yet we are not established beyond the possibility of a failure. Everything among us is in a state of infancy; we have only begun to walk. Do you know that in the opinion of men of great intelligence, men well versed in the histories of ancient and modern times, the Republic of Liberia is regarded a problem? Let us not deceive ourselves, our wives, our children; let us not disappoint the trembling aspirations of the friends of our race, and by carelessness to the workings of the Government, or a want of patriotic interest in whatever tends to give stability and prosperity, retard or frustrate the fair commencement of our fathers to secure a home—a Christian Government—for our race on these distant shores. We should be wary of anything that portends alienation, which augments prejudice, or seeks only self aggrandizement. I would not have you become indifferent to politics and resign to the rampant and professed

politician your right to wield a portion of the power in shaping the course of the State. I do not recommend the abnegation of the benefit to a Government of a proper party spirit. In the juvenile condition of our Government no citizen should yield his interest to another. I would, therefore, recommend you, the Representatives of the people, to consider yourselves bound by the solemn duties incumbent upon you to inculcate, by all the weight of your influence and position, circumspection and devotedness to the affairs of Government as the best means to preserve our institutions and insure success and prosperity.

#### FOREIGN SYMPATHETIC INTEREST.

The Republic of Liberia continues to be an object of sympathetic interest, and has the sincere aspirations, for her prosperity and success, of the best men and wisest nations of the earth. While she continues to govern herself wisely, to sustain herself vigorously among her heathen population with the humanity and justice which should characterize her acts, while she continues to accord to the subjects of friendly Governments the protection of our laws, we may reasonably conclude that this state of friendly interest will continue. We may entertain this conviction from the belief that in spite of the convulsions and exciting changes taking place, the world is advancing in the acquisition of sound principles and true morality. The fashion to absorb or to crush a feeble power has been substituted by a disposition to encourage. The principle that might is right is beginning to be ignored as unworthy of a place in the moral system of nations. The propensity to enslave the ignorant and the heathen has been displaced by a charity as expansive as was the disposition to prey upon them. Amidst this state of unexaggerated feeling it is our happiness to begin to act as a nation. Certainly we should accommodate ourselves to it. Rising above the heathenism of the continent, its feelings and principles, we should show ourselves perpetually entitled to the continuation of the friendship of enlightened Powers.

But it is not improper to apprise the world of our objects, and to solicit their quietude if not their encouragement, while we apply ourselves to the acquisition of them. We are laying the foundation of a power to be felt in the peaceful counsels of the nations of the earth. Centuries of existence—if we are watchful of our institutions and true to our principles—are before us. In this belief is it to be expected that we would shape our course without a reference to the future of the probable existence of this Government? Amidst the disposition of Christian Governments to acquire sections of the African con-

continent, appropriating to themselves the North, the South, and the East to exercise their ameliorating influence, can the Government of Liberia, composed of the decendants of Africa, be required consistently to content herself with a slip comparatively of a hand's breadth on the West Coast? For the future purposes of the Republic of Liberia, the area from the River Jong to the San Pedro is insufficient, admitting that no one comes into any portion of the distance claimed in the interior of us. We cannot in the face of our probable extention be required to release ourselves from all care for the future by any Government who participates in the healthful changes taking place among enlightened nations. While all acknowledge our hereditary connection with Africa, we think the christianity of none would allow them to deny our right to secure the space on the territory of our fathers on which to develop the nationality we have begun.

If, in the intensity of the interest taken now in African civilization, it should be feared that this Republic would employ unjust methods to acquire the territory she needs, we can appeal to our past history, to the absence of severity in dealing with our aborigines when they have given us just cause to come into hostile collision with them; and to the fact that our natural connection with them makes their preservation and elevation subjects of deeper interest and anxiety to us than they can possibly be to another race.

As a people, we are far from a disposition to question the purity of the interest taken in all that relates to Africa, whether manifested in efforts to colonize her children from the land of their captivity, or in the efforts which have resulted successfully in breaking the bonds of slavery and the abolition at once of this curse of humanity.

Neither can we divest ourselves of equal admiration of the interest taken by all enlightened Powers, with few exceptions, in the abolishment of the African slave-trade. Having labored so effectually to check it on the West Coast, they follow it with equal determination into the territories of the Sultan of Zanzibar, the East Coast, and the region of the upper Nile. If civilized Governments, in the days of the legitimacy of the traffic, generally participated in it, they now so generally oppose it, so determined are they upon its death, that no descendant of Africa can question their sincerity or withhold his high appreciation of their deeds. With such interest manifested by the greatest effusion of blood the world has been drenched with, and the expenditure of almost fabulous amounts of money, the man of color everywhere should be gratified particularly. At least an expression of gratitude to the benefactors of the African race should be given. At least a word of concern

should be uttered toward the enfranchised—the former victims of centuries of oppression. All nations have, or individuals of all nationalities, have done this, yea, more than this, except Liberia! We should have been among the first to hail with the most grateful feeling the changes taking place in favor of our race. We never have been a pro-slavery institution, and should have applauded the efforts to abolish it. No reasonable community or nation could justly have censured us for so doing. The youthfulness of the Republic of Liberia, the plea of some for silence on a subject as near to our hearts as to any, does not excuse us from an expression when it is right, and manly, and proper to make it. The question of what good could we accomplish by an expression of concern and congratulation for the millions of our race so recently made free, betrays a disposition to underrate ourselves. In communicating with friendly Governments we have had so far the most respectful attention, and from none more than the Government of the United States. We have no reason, therefore, to believe that an expression by us would have been deemed offensive or officious. If there was ever a time when it was necessary and proper, it was when the eventualities of the late civil war in the United States had given them freedom; when the great American Republic united her voice in the dirge of slavery, and, regardless of the enormous cost, declared that humanity should no longer be bowed to the earth by the odious institution.

It is not too late to do good, and therefore I recommend you to express, in appropriate resolutions, Liberia's high appreciation of this great act of justice of the Government of the United States. I recommend also a like expression in reference to our race in them, manifesting the deep interest and hope which the Republic entertains for the colored population so recently placed in a condition in which they are at liberty to demonstrate their manhood and equal susceptibility to whatever improves, and elevates, and dignifies human nature.

On the subject of the foreign relations of this Government, I am thankful that I have no ill tidings to communicate to you. Friendly relation to the civilized governments of the world has been an acknowledged necessity from the time of the Declaration of Independence of Liberia. Such a relation is fraught with the interest, encouragement, and quickening energy necessary to an infant Government so peculiarly situated. From the time application was first made to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty to the present, none of the nations to whom similar applications have been made have hesitated to give the benefit of their recognition, or the advantages of a generous treaty. This has had a marvelous effect upon the uncivilized inhabitants of our coasts. They have

given up their opposition to our laws, and become reconciled to our jurisdiction in proportion as they have become convinced that certain Governments were in friendly relations with us.

Acting upon the principle—an appreciation of the amity of civilized Governments—I have to communicate to you that this Government has reciprocated the declarations of adhesion to the treaty with the North German Confederacy by their Royal Highnesses, the Grand Duke of Baden, and his Majesty, King of Wurtemberg, most courteously made through Charles Goedelt, Esquire, our Consul General to the North German Confederacy, for whose appointment, 8th June, 1868, I have to ask your confirmation.

#### THE NORTH-WESTERN TERRITORY.

Two subjects of no small degree of interest to the parties concerned, and annoyance to us, have engaged the attention of the Government, which I cannot bring myself to believe can amount to anything subversive of good feeling, upon proper explanation.

The facility with which traders and merchants may enter our North-western territory, and intersect our interior, and by so doing violate the laws of the Government, forestall our commerce, and prejudice the native mind, demands that the most stringent measures should be employed to prevent these effects, or the question of our North-western boundary should be put finally to rest. Unable to do this in the way the most effectual, I have presumed to hold to account some persons who, there was reason to believe, were employing the privileges granted them to trade within our ports, to trespass upon our rights. Neither the enactments of the Legislature nor the injunctions of conventional law have been regarded, and the effect upon our aboriginal inhabitants in the Vey territories has been so decidedly pernicious that I am entirely convinced that nothing less than a military expedition is likely to adjust existing difficulties, and cause the laws of the Government to be respected.

The notorious Prince Manna, taking advantage of the exposure of our North-western territory, and vainly flattering himself that the denial of Liberia's title to it has settled the question, being too much under the influence of heathanism to know that a denial does not, *per se*, adjust and determine, in these days, a question of so much magnitude, has actually come out of the country in which he resides into the Manna territory, to which this Government has as clear a right, and there defies its authority. He shelters himself, as he supposes, under the wing of Her Britannic Majesty's colony, and by representations unfavorable to Liberia, taking their rise from Liberia's

unrelenting demand upon all within her jurisdiction to abandon forever the slave-trade, he seeks to shield himself and justify his acts. I fear he has succeeded in his unfavorable representations; but it is to be hoped that his success is limited to that class of persons in whose estimation the profits of trade are paramount, for it must be obvious to any unprejudiced person that the representations of our aboriginal inhabitants should be admitted with the greatest caution, since they will not be entirely convinced for sometime that the existence of the Liberian Government among them is a benefit to them. Restrained from the slave-trade—the favorite traffic of the chiefs—opposed in their marauding propensity, and threatened by the desertion of their slaves and women, who begin to understand that by flight into the towns of the Republic they can free themselves from the domestic institutions of slavery and polygamy, it is not probable that heathen princes and chiefs would be favorable to the Government which they imagine is operating detrimentally, in these respects, to their interest.

At the time of the cession of the Gallinas territory, April 30th, 1850, and the confirmation of the cession, February 19th, 1851, by King Rogers and chiefs, Prince Manna, one of them, was but a third-rate man, and stands now accused by the survivors of the Rogers family of foul play, resulting in the death of King Rogers, whom he succeeded. That he should be disposed to ignore the acts of his predecessor is not incredible.

But in all cases where these representations have failed to take effect, and the natives have been given to feel that their appeals met no response, they have identified themselves with us, and become satisfied.

A communication of the date of October 23d has come to the Government from Prince Bombo, asking aid, and apprising it that Prince Manna and his allies threaten him with war, because he refuses to join with them to conquer and reduce the Zara people to slavery. He says: "Now the facts in the case are these: the Zara people were slaves, and decreed themselves free some years since, and Prince Manna and his allies say they shall not be free; if they let them alone, all the slaves in the country will run away and go to them." To conquer these revolted slaves he has come into the Manna country, and defies the authority of this Government. This is the man who thinks to sustain himself by a treaty made subsequently to the cession of the territory.

#### CLAIM OF AN ENGLISH COMPANY.

The other subject is one of a delicate character, on which I cannot refrain from expressing my sympathy with the complainants, who are gentlemen of the highest respectability in

England, and whose extensive business on the Liberian coast entitles them to consideration, and their claim to respectful attention.

The Company of African Merchants, through their director, have made a demand on this Government for certain lots in the town of Robertsport, which they claim to have bought, with the improvements thereon, and confirmed their title by certain payments to the natives. This Government regrets deeply the occasion for this complaint, and the inconvenience to the company. Nevertheless it has the good fortune to know that it is entirely innocent of the perpetration of any wrong in the premises. The assertion of this Company that their agent made a payment on these lots to the natives could not be admitted by this Government, however true it might be. The laws of Liberia prohibit even its citizens from such transactions with the aborigines, and to allow foreign subjects the privilege would be most dangerous, and cause endless confusion.

Ignoring the right of the Company's agent to purchase any land within the jurisdiction of the Government of Liberia from the aborigines, I confess that it was the right of their local agent, being a Liberian, to have secured the lots in the way the law prescribes, and I am unable to account for his neglect to have done so, when an application had been made by the general agent to the Government, June 10, 1864, and its consent obtained July 14, 1864.

In the month of December, 1867, these lots were offered at public auction, and were bought for President D. B. Warner, who duly fulfilled the requirements of the law as to payment for them. Under these circumstances, it is inconceivable that any just demand can be made upon this Government. Notwithstanding, I have deemed it proper, in consideration of the character of the Company of African Merchants and the importance of the question, to have them furnished with all the satisfactory information within the power of this Government to give; and it is to be hoped that they will hold no unpleasant feeling toward the Government.

#### FINANCES OF THE REPUBLIC.

It has been a matter of profound regret that the Government has not been able to meet the demands made upon it by citizens and foreigners. The claims of foreigners are not numerous, and for this reason it is humiliating to have them standing for presentation. The causes of the inability of the Government to meet them this year arose from the condition of the Government in January, 1868:—the emptiness of the Treasury, there being only \$506 in it; the condition of the commissary, the ammunition and arms in it not being sufficient to supply one

company in an emergency; the destitution of all the public offices, except the collectors of customs, of the most common and necessary facilities for the transaction of the affairs of Government; the large amount of debenture scrip in circulation, which threatened the absorption of all the revenue from imports and exports; and the large expenditure in the quarter ending December 31, 1867, including the default of \$1,536.09 by the ex-Secretary of the Treasury, which the accounts and Auditor's report will show. The Government found itself in these circumstances too greatly embarrassed to undertake the settlement of outstanding claims and yet carry forward its regular operations.

The accounts of the Treasury Department for the first quarter of the fiscal year ending December 31, 1867, not having been audited, neither their correctness nor their effect upon the general appropriation for the year could be ascertained until properly appointed auditors had examined and reported upon them. The Government considered it obligatory to have this attended to in the most faithful, impartial, and efficient manner possible, and therefore appointed H. W. Dennis, W. H. Lynch, and W. A. Johnson, Esquires, the report of whom will be submitted to you by the Secretary of the Treasury. This report served only to increase the embarrassment of the Government, showing the disbursements of the first quarter to have amounted to \$15,823.56, which exceeded the receipts by \$2,617.46, of which \$1,536.09 are adjudged by the auditors to the default of the ex-Secretary of the Treasury. Impressed with the conviction that the finances of the country require great stringency and particular exactness, I directed an inquiry to be made for the bond of the ex-Secretary of the Treasury, which resulted in the information that his bond was cancelled; therefore, neither that person nor his securities have been held to answer for this default.

In this state it became obvious, that to attempt to meet the demands of citizens who require their assets for the expansion of their business, and the just claims of a few foreigners, and to admit to be taken at the custom-houses the large amount of debenture scrip in circulation contrary to law, would materially impede the operations of the Government for the year. Accordingly, the policy was adopted to limit the acceptance of debenture scrip by the officers of the customs to such as had been issued agreeably with the law. Adhering to this policy, while it is much to be regretted that the indebtedness of the country has not been decreased, it has not, I hope, been materially augmented, while the affairs of Government have not been disturbed. And I am impelled to state the gratification I have had in the patriotism of the citizens and the forbear-

ance of foreign claimants, manifested by a general disposition to withhold their claims, rather than to add to the complication of the Government and thereby check its operations.

#### POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

I invite your attention to an inquiry into the workings of our post offices, and a consideration of the entire postal arrangements, with a view to ascertain the cause of the country's continual indebtedness for this service under the operation of the postal treaty with Her Britannic Majesty's Government, the provisions of which I consider to be liberal and prudent. The account of the British post office left a balance against the post office of this Government to December 31, 1867, of £406.13, or \$1,951.92. With our system of pre-payment, and the amount accruing to Government from postages, it is difficult to understand how this service involves the Government. The Postmaster General's Report will be laid before you, and I hope you will be able from it to ascertain the cause, determine the remedy, and make such improvements as will increase the efficiency and healthiness of the entire postal service.

#### THE REVENUE CUTTER LIBERIA.

Besides the regular business of the Government, I have considered it necessary to procure, according to an enactment of the Legislature of the Republic, a vessel to operate on our coast as a guarda costa. The schooner "Liberia" was purchased on April 20, 1868, and put in commission under a lieutenant commander, suitably supplied as to crew and armament, to answer the purpose of a revenue cutter, and has been actively employed in watching against the violation of the revenue laws, suppressing difficulties along the coast in co-operation with the Government officials in the southern counties. Her service, under Lieutenant Commander W. H. Lynch, has been efficient and highly useful. The native population, which were becoming restless and turbulent, have been quieted, and are now on the best terms of peace and friendship with themselves and us, being convinced that disturbances which retard commerce will not be tolerated without a vigorous effort to suppress them. The Americo-Liberians, who have stationed themselves at different places on the coast for purposes of trade, have felt assured. In fine, the presence of the Government vessel "Liberia" has been an advantage thus far which, in my opinion, quite justifies the expense of her purchase, outfit, and maintenance. But it is necessary to have more than one vessel on our coast. The revenue laws of the Government are frequently violated, I have cause to believe, to the south of

Cape Palmas, and it is difficult for one revenue vessel to prevent these violations.

#### THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The debt of the country has been a subject of anxious and I may say fruitless inquiry for some years. I have endeavored to have this ascertained, as far as practicable, during the year; and I am happy to be able to report that the claims registered against the Government, amounting to \$66,636.94, justify me in the belief that the indebtedness of the Government is not as great as was supposed. We may congratulate ourselves for two circumstances in the premises, that during the twenty-two years of our national existence—after embarking upon the sea of nationality with comparatively nothing—the Republic has entailed upon herself no larger debt; that without having made even the effort to contract a national loan, its indebtedness is, with a small exception, like the great and influential debt of Great Britain, limited to our own citizens. The time may soon come, however, when the Government may feel compelled to adopt the common practice of other governments to introduce capital, to gain access to the interior, to intersect the country with practicable roads, and develop more expeditiously the resources of the same. For the present, I prefer that the people should tax their own energies to improve the condition of the country, and demonstrate their ability, self-reliantly, to sustain themselves without resort to a foreign national loan. We will, at least, learn the value and the proper use of capital by this course. It remains with you, Senators and Representatives, to determine the means of paying off the ascertained debt. Whether it is most feasible to appropriate a certain per cent. of the revenue, inviolably, for its liquidation, or take up the claims upon long bonds bearing interest, payable annually, or to employ the assets of the sinking fund, consisting entirely of demand notes, for its settlement, preventing the increase of this debt by deposits of unusable paper in the Treasury by legislative enactment, are questions which I submit to your united wisdom. If Government could at once relieve the citizens and put them in possession of the amounts due them, the economy and the wisdom of the act would be beyond question. My proposals on this subject are—

1st. That you repeal the Funding Act, which propose that the claims against Government should be funded and the interest on the bonds be paid annually in specie, without providing the means of procuring the specie. This cardinal defect has embarrassed the Government no little, and I trust you see the impropriety of such legislation. 2d. That you authorize the payment of the registered debt by annual payments of twenty-

five per cent. each in debentures of the character of the "demand notes" of the Government. This I believe to be as much as the probable receipts of the Government will admit without disturbing the business of the Government. And I am of the opinion that your adoption of a plan of this nature will enable the Secretary of the Treasury to pay off the registered debt in four years.

#### CESSION OF THE SETTRA KROO COUNTRY.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that a commission, composed of Lieutenant Commander W. H. Lynch and J. L. Crusoe, Esq., succeeded in a most peaceable manner in adjusting the Settra Kroo difficulty. Becoming satisfied of the inability of the community to deliver up to justice the murderer of our fellow-citizen, James Douglass, without serious disturbance amongst themselves, the commissioners accepted the voluntary proposal of the proper authorities—King and headmen—to cede that territory and identify themselves politically and absolutely with this Republic. This was done by their signing, in the presence of witnesses, a proper document, the transfer of the Liberian flag to the territory, and a salute by the people of Settra Kroo, on the 29th of June, A. D. 1868.

I have to solicit your speedy action upon the interdict laid upon this country in 1866, the raising of which I considered appropriate only to the National Legislature from the tenor of the act.

#### COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

I have now to ask your attention to some measures, which I have concluded, upon deep reflection, to recommend to you, the representatives of the people, for your deliberation and action. Your wise deliberation, in the spirit of true patriotism, will mature them; and your favorable action upon them alone can invest them with the authority of law and make them obligatory upon the country.

I recommend the adoption of a compulsory educational system for the whole country. A system making it obligatory upon every parent, every guardian, protector, or any person having a child or children, apprentice or apprentices, orphan or orphans legitimately in his, her, or their control, to cause them to attend either the Government school, or any other in the city, town, or village, three hours each day that school is taught, when not unavoidably inconvenient; and that the advantage be extended to the native population in the neighborhood of a school. I will not take up your time with an unnecessary dilation upon a subject which I am sure interests you. But the importance of a general education permeating the

masses, and the propriety of obliging those who do not study the interests of the persons committed to their care, are subjects worthy of the vigilant attention of the Government—the common guardian of its populace—and of the action of the law-making department of the same. I do not intend any reflection upon the people of Liberia by an intimation unfavorable to their appreciation of the advantages of education; yet I propose to leave with no citizen the election, whether a child or an apprentice, committed providentially to him, should be withheld from the advantages of a common-school education while he is incapable of thinking and acting to his own advantage. Fellow-citizens, it is a subject involving a tremendous responsibility—it is with you to determine whether within a few more decades every citizen, Aboriginal and Americo-Liberian, shall possess a primary-school education—a sufficiency, at least, of the rudiments of education to qualify them to pass along the walks of life somewhat manfully. I will only add the remark, that should you entertain this recommendation, it will afford me the greatest pleasure to render you any aid within my power to conclude, upon a comprehensive and efficient system, by which to bestow upon the country the great and vital advantages of, at least, a common education, by which I intend the elementary branches, which adapt persons to the practical duties of life, lead them to appreciate the institutions of civil society, and which constitute them proper conservators of whatever adorns and benefits a civilized government.

#### THE ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

I invoke your patriotic and sagacious consideration of a plan ameliorative of the circumstances of our aboriginal population. I ask you seriously to consider that there are within the jurisdiction of this Republic a population variously estimated, but not less than 600,000, in a state of heathenism—cut off from the slave-trader's influence, severed from their association with foreigners engaged in legitimate purchases, but, with a few honorable exceptions, not less pernicious in their influence than the slave dealer, and now dependent upon Liberia for everything which they themselves cannot supply. There is no rational hope that they can or ever would civilize themselves—an arduous, if not impossible, work to any isolated people who exclude an extraneous influence of greater power and better ideas and sentiments. The elements of civilization and Christianity, the advantages of enlightened institutions must be brought and imparted, and, if they like children spurn them, urged upon them. Moral suasion among heathens, destitute of any sentiments which modify their heathenism, is, in the absence of power to sustain it, a feeble force. I recom-

mend, therefore, the adoption of a plan by which the influence of the Government may be directly exerted upon them in the way of gradually and peaceably undermining their ancient customs of superstition and cruelty; a plan that abolishes the administration of sassy-wood in all places within our jurisdiction, and makes it a capital offence, to be punished upon conviction, as any other capital crime; that ignores their systems of domestic slavery and polygamy, by forbidding all courts of justice to entertain suits for the recapture of fugitives from slavery or the harem; that refuses to allow persons, who support "gregrees" or believe in the pagan system of "fetish," to make oath in any court; that forbids their ordinary tests for witchcraft and holds the perpetrator responsible for a misdemeanor; that requires all investigations for murder, by poisoning or any other means, to be submitted to the adjudication of the civil tribunal; that enjoins all persons addicted to the practice to refrain, upon pain of a heavy penalty, from "marking" the face of themselves or others. In the early days of the slave trade, the necessity of slave dealers induced them to employ laborers when they arrived on the coast. A contract was entered into with the inhabitants of the Grain coast, that they should serve them and be considered when employed as a part of the crew, who in consideration therefor were to enjoy an immunity from slavery. To distinguish them from the common victims of the traffic they were required to mark the face—a truce to which both parties to the contract adhered with uncommon good faith; unless, and I think it can with truth be said, that the "crew-men" in faithfulness excelled the so-called Christians, for the mark was not always a protection from the traffic. The self-protecting disposition of man operated in this instance to accept a hideous mark as a shield from slavery. But the cause has passed away from this part of the coast, and the inhabitants should be required to discontinue this practice. I can perceive no impropriety in the Government extending its influence and operating by its laws to abolish the now unnecessary practice. It is the maximum guardian of its populace, and should especially interest itself about that class that cannot determine for themselves. If it has the authority to compel parents in one respect with regard to their children, it can restrain them from inflicting a barbarous mark which will serve to create an unpleasant distinction all the days of their life. But another strong reason for the prohibition is supplied by the known fact that the practice of facial marking is becoming a shield to that of kidnapping children on our Windward coast, and taking them to parts of what we designate the "Kroo Coast," as slaves. Both the crime of kidnapping and that of domestic slavery would be

checked, and, in time, greatly modified if not entirely eradicated by a law forbidding facial marking. I think many of the native chiefs would admit its reasonableness and and co-operate for its discontinuance.

On this subject, and in connection with such a plan as I earnestly recommend you to adopt for the improvement of our native inhabitants, by which they may be assimilated to and identified in every respect with us, I propose to you to pass an act recognizing as Liberians our entire aboriginal population, and granting them civil and political rights on the same condition that Americo-Liberians enjoy them, and confirming to them the sites of their towns and farming districts, which shall be considered reservations, any survey or allotments of which to be void henceforward.

To supervise an universal educational system; the operations of civilized law upon the aborigines; to enter into correspondence and contracts with distant and interior tribes; to see that native residents in our towns are treated with justice and humanity; to require that those in the employment of farmers and others are not overworked, are properly fed and clothed, and that they have the privileges of the common school system; to co-operate with agriculturists to obtain a supply of laborers when necessary, and to have the general oversight of the internal revenue, and improvement of the cities and towns of the Republic, are works of so much importance to us as a nation that I would be recreant to duty did I not recommend them to your consideration. I do so on this interesting occasion with a consciousness of both their feasibility and desirableness. Should you concur with me in this feeling, allow me to recommend also the creation of an Interior Bureau, to which they shall be committed.

#### CHANGE OF LAWS PROPOSED.

I request your attention to some improvements in our laws which circumstances have shown to be necessary. Your consideration has been already solicited to desired amendments to the fundamental law of the Republic by petition from many of our fellow-citizens. After a probation of more than twenty years, how much are we struck with admiration at the ability of the men who drew up the Constitution of this State! It seems marvelous that a convention surrounded by circumstances so peculiar should have draughted an instrument so well adapted to the feelings of the people, and to anticipate and provide against the dangers before us. But it is the work of men. It could not be expected to be free from imperfections which would require amendments in the future. But a respectable number of citizens having most respectfully solicited your

consideration of this subject, I will only ask you to consider the propriety of so amending the act creating a Court of Admiralty, that seizures of merchandize and all other articles may be adjudicated by this court the same way the seizure of vessels is provided for. The present state of this act justifies the opinion that this court, when adjudicating the seizure of merchandize, &c., must do so during the term of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, but that it may convene at any time, after sufficient notice has been given, to adjudicate the seizure of a vessel. Now, it has been the practice to adjudicate all seizures in the same way; the judicial officer convening the Court of Admiralty at any time without awaiting the term of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. But would a reasonable construction of the law sustain this practice? If not, in order to give a speedy trial, and to avoid the expense and inconvenience inseparable from delay in judicial proceedings, I consider it would be an improvement to allow the Court of Admiralty to convene at any time it becomes necessary to determine the legality of a seizure, or to try offences in contravention of the navigation, commerce, and revenue laws.

I invite your attention also to a consideration of the question of the propriety of endowing Montserrado county with a judiciary system which requires the holding of fifty-two sessions of courts in a year, with an appropriation of only one thousand dollars more than each of the other counties with only twelve sessions respectively. Whether to increase the appropriation or to modify the sessions in this county, deserves your consideration.

It has been a subject of reflection whether the mercantile interests of the country would not be promoted if the Port of Entry Act was so amended as to allow Liberian vessels engaged in the foreign trade to engage also in the coast-wise trade. We have a large aboriginal population to supply, and we should endeavor to assimilate them to our communities, to identify them with us in sentiment and feeling by every possible plan. To withhold from them the intercourse with foreigners by which they were formerly supplied, and to fail ourselves to supply them, cannot have upon them the desired effect. I grant that the population to the north of Cape Palmas are well supplied, some of them confessing themselves quite satisfied and agreeably disappointed in their calculations, but there are parts of the Liberian coast where it is not advantageous to employ the small craft which trade profitably between the different points on the windward coast. It is necessary to supply these and sustain that intercourse with them which is so beneficially effecting the tribes on the windward coast. In addition to this, the amendment would be judicious for the reason that

every facility should be given to the mercantile interests of the country. The want of capital should constrain to the employment of every feasible plan to increase it. With this view, we should not fear the monopoly of the trade by large vessels, they being *bona fide* Liberian vessels. In my opinion, the supply of produce by our aborigines will keep pace with the supply of merchandise by us.

I deem it expedient to ask your attention to the evils which may result from the ambiguity of the law on the subject of commission and retail licences, in connection with the act regulating the intercourse of foreigners. This act restricts those foreigners whose governments are not in treaty stipulation with this Government, in the transaction of mercantile business to the intervention of brokers or commission merchants. While, however, those who are not thus restricted, because of treaty stipulations with their governments, are at liberty to conduct their business in person, a question has arisen whether it is the intention of the law to confer upon them the privilege of doing commission business. I recommend this subject to your consideration, and ask you to discriminate between a commission and a wholesale license, and determine the spirit of the law by an act perspicuous and definite, not likely to mislead a foreign resident, or to embarrass the Government.

Had the Government reserved its water lots, or a sufficient number of them to erect in each port of entry a warehouse, besides the facility of a place for bonded merchandise, it would afford at each port of entry a safe place for the transaction of business by transient traders, under the immediate notice of a revenue officer. Were we in this condition, we might dispense safely and advantageously with the commission license; but as it is, I have doubts of the utility of the policy which limits the privilege of a commission license only to Liberian citizens.

#### IMMIGRATION.

I consider it important to recommend to you for consideration the subject of immigration to this Government. I am of the opinion that the circumstances of a country in which the proportion of the civilized populace bears so small a ratio to the uncivilized, make it necessary that the Government should not omit to use any means within its power to increase its enlightened population.

It should not be supposed—but I fear it is—that Liberia has done nothing that evinces an active interest in immigration to her shores; for, besides the lands which it furnishes, without regard as to whether they were originally acquired by the American Colonization Society and ceded to the Republic in trust for immigration, or whether they were acquired by the

Government, besides the burden which immigration has invariably imposed upon the citizens, and sometimes upon the Government, there has been a considerable appropriation by the Government to immigration, in the non-exaction of custom dues, licenses, and taxes from the importations and transactions of the American Colonization Society. Of the \$2,558,907.10 raised for the purposes of emigration, from 1817 to 1866, we perceive that from 1847, when Liberia declared her independence, to 1867, there has been raised for the purpose something like \$1,343,386.38. On the calculation that half of this amount was disbursed directly upon immigration, then the exemption of the same from custom dues, together with the exemption of colonization ships from the usual duties; colonization stores and property from taxes and license fees, and the importation of immigrants from import dues, it will appear that the Government of Liberia's appropriation to immigration has not been far short of one hundred thousand dollars in twenty years in this way.

I propose that, continuing thus to manifest this interest, the Government be authorized to appeal to the colored men of the United States of North America and elsewhere, and invite them, on the most liberal terms, to aid in the maintenance of a Christian Government in the land of our fathers; and the Government be also authorized to enter into an arrangement with the Government of the mother Republic by which immigration may be promoted, and the security of this struggling infant State may be increased.

#### NATURALIZATION.

There is good reason to apprehend that the oath of allegiance to this Government is being considered in the light of a custom house oath, sometimes regarded as allowing any amount of reservation; and to prevent the advantages which are taken of it, that a special act of the Legislature is necessary. Of the intention of persons coming from distant climes into Liberia and taking this oath there can be no apprehension; but it is an acknowledged fact that those who come from the colonies on the Western Coast of Africa, come principally for the purpose of trading. We have no objection whatever to their residing for this or any other legitimate purpose among us; but if they wish to assume the relation of citizens, they should be required to take an oath, make a registry of themselves, and procure a uniform certificate, by which their allegiance to any other government shall be surrendered on their admission to citizenship in this.

#### PASSPORTS FOR NATIVES.

If you, Senators and Representatives, should entertain my recommendation with regard to an act by which our aborigines

shall be formally acknowledged, then an additional act requiring masters of vessels, supercargoes, and agents taking any of them out of the jurisdiction of the Republic to obtain a passport for every one, will become imperatively necessary.

#### UNIFORM STANDARD OF MEASUREMENTS.

I recommend that the Legislature would consider and pass an act creating a national standard, and defining the mode of admeasurement of vessels by our Government officials. Our revenue laws provide that before a vessel can be registered, she must be measured by the collector or some one authorized by him; but the law does not prescribe how the vessel is to be measured; and, as there are several modes of measurement, this state of the law works a hardship upon our citizens, for it often happens that one of our merchants has to pay more tonnage dues on his vessel than the foreigner pays on a vessel of much greater size, because of the difference in the mode of measurement between this and the country from which the foreigner comes, who pays his duties according to his national tonnage measurement.

#### SECRETARY OF TREASURY REPORT.

The financial condition of the country will be submitted in a proper form to you in a very perspicuous and able report by the Secretary of the Treasury, Daniel J. Beams, Esq., who will also lay before you the report of the Auditors of the public accounts. From the Secretary's report you will have concise information of the management of the finances, the embarrassed state of the country, the working of the plan inaugurated for its relief, and the prospect, if you entertain the plan proposed, of extricating it from its long standing, and, until this year, its unknown indebtedness. You possess the means of better information as to whether there is any improvement in the state of the finances, than any I have it in my power to impart.

The receipts of the year ending 30th of September, 1868, from all sources, have been \$81,691,24. The disbursements for the same period have been \$63,332,50.

A gratifying item in the revenue of the year is the amount of increase of the internal revenue of the Government; and the pleasure of the country will be enhanced by the knowledge of the fact that a portion of our aboriginal population have borne taxation with as much ease as our civilized inhabitants, whose ready payment of their taxes is a strong evidence that they are beginning to recognize the importance and necessity of an internal revenue.

JAMES S. PAYNE.

MONROVIA, *December 10, 1868.*

From the Missionary Advocate.

### REVIVAL AMONG NATIVE AFRICANS.

We have once before remarked the new condition of the work in Liberia; that is, the body of the church grows faster than the number and effectiveness of the ministry. This result will be increased, probably, by powerful revivals, which occur occasionally to a limited extent. Of such a revival we have an account below, in a letter from Rev. James H. Deputie, dated at Mount Olive, in the Bassa country, July 27. It is to be noted, that this revival influences the *native chiefs*, and promises to enlarge the mission.

Since I wrote to you last, God has poured out His Spirit abundantly upon His churches here on the Western Coast of Africa, and the labors of His servants have been greatly blessed. Not only have the Americo-Liberians been the recipients of these heavenly showers, but a portion of the aborigines of the country have shared largely, and to-day they are able to rejoice in the God of their salvation. The little church here in the wilderness among the natives is still fighting for victory, and God has passed by this way lately, and greatly encouraged us by giving us seven more from the enemy's ranks, and they are now in the army of the Lord, and bid fair to become useful soldiers of the Cross.

An old man of over a hundred years of age sent two men to me the other day, to know if we could send a "God man," (as he called him) to his town, to preach to his people and teach his children. He is a heathen man, and has long served the devil. He can speak no language but the "Bassa," his native tongue, and has never seen a civilized town, though he lives but twenty miles from the beach. He is the principal chief of this section of country, and many are the horrid tales that he can tell of the Spaniards and the African slave-trade. He is now anxious that his children and grand-children be taught better lessons than those that were taught him by his ancestors. He has a son who is a member of the church here, but previous to his conversion was what is called here a "country devil." The whole section of country, from the Farmington River to the "Duc," may now be considered a fine field of labor for the promulgation of the Gospel, as the natives are anxious to have their children educated, and their young men come under the rules of civilization.

Many of the young men now in the country were once members of mission-schools, and after they made some advancement in their studies became tired, and strayed back into the country. They carried their religious impressions with them, and now, while some of them hold the reins of government among their

tribes, God is answering the prayers of those servants who toiled with these youths day and night, and is making instruments of them in His hands to make a way for the Gospel to "run and be glorified." How true is the word of God: "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days." The money expended here by the Missionary Board has not been expended in vain, and there is much work here to do yet. "The field is now white already unto the harvest."

On the Farmington River, nine miles below this station, at New Tom's Town, the Presbyterian Mission has commenced operations with favorable prospects. New Tom is a chief of great influence in his section of country, and his action has created a great jealousy among his fellow-chiefs, and they are all now anxious to follow his example.

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#### WANTED—MISSIONARIES FOR AFRICA.

We would not abate in the least the desire which Christian men and women feel, to engage in direct efforts for the evangelizing of the people of the South. Nay, we would, if it were possible, increase the number of Missionaries there an hundred fold; but when we think of the fatherland of these people, of the hundreds of millions there in the bondage of heathenism, of the few struggling, toiling, fainting Missionaries there, we seem to hear the Master's voice saying, "these things ought ye to have done, and not to have left the other undone."

We cannot do too much to give letters and the Gospel to the people here, but we must not forget the darkness, and the need of the many there. There are devoted Christian Ministers seeking opportunity to work among the Freedmen, who yet are providentially hindered. To them we want to say, Brethren, may not God, by throwing these hindrances in your way, mean to turn your attention to the same class of persons in Africa? *There is room enough, there is need enough, and in the providence of God, pressing calls for laborers, which nothing prevents us from supplying but the want of men properly qualified in heart and mind, and ready to respond to the divine command, and go and there preach the Gospel of the Son of God. Among the hundred of young men who have just entered, or about to enter the ministry, are there none for Africa?—American Missionary.*

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#### MOHAMMEDAN INFLUENCE IN WESTERN AFRICA.

Among the influences that oppose the progress of the Gospel in Western Africa is Mohammedism.

North of Sierra Leone, through the Soosoo country, it is the

prevailing religion. In Sierra Leone the Mohammedans number some thousands. Southeast of Sierra Leone, through the part occupied by the Mendi Mission, they are already numerous, and are yearly increasing. They are strangers in the country, mostly from the Mandingo and Foolah tribes, with such proselytes as have been won to their faith. They form a part of every large town, and have, also, settlements of their own. A teacher resides in every town and large village to instruct the youth in reading and writing Arabic, and in the Koran. They assume great superiority over those uninstructed in the Mohammedan faith. They utter their Arabic prayers with loud vociferation, and claim that because they worship God in the right way he hears them, is with them, and grants them great power. This power they exercise in the manufacture of magic charms for the prevention of numerous evils and the attainment of almost any desired good. And their success in practicing upon the credulity of the people is seen :

1st, In the great numbers of these charms in the possession of the people. Some of these, they claim, will preserve from the bites of poisonous reptiles, others from loss by theft, others will preserve life even amid the greatest dangers of the battlefield, and few dare engage in a hazardous enterprise without their life being insured by one or more of these mysterious charms.

2d, In the confidence the people place in them. They hasten to them as to an arm of power, consult them upon matters of great importance, and abide in their decision. If the chiefs determine to send war against a neighboring kingdom, leading Mohammedans are called to determine the day that will be propitious for the event, and to prepare a magic that will insure their success. If a gift is sent to parties engaged in hostilities, with the request for a truce during a certain season, a great Mohammedan is called to practice his mysterious arts, and make the hearts of the people willing to accede to the request. If a peace is negotiated in the country, Mohammedans are called to confirm and establish it. They claim to have the power to cause God's blessing or curse, to cause insanity and death, to investigate secrets and guide future events.

These strong assumptions, joined with their mysterious arts, exert a strong influence upon the minds of that superstitious people, who are led to regard them with deference; and many bring their sons to them to be taught in their faith. All this is a matter of much gain to them.

Add to the above the fact that they are an enterprising trading people, and secure for themselves better clothes, houses, and other comforts than the other people, and some idea may be formed of the certainty and extent of their influence. Thus

prejudicing the minds of the people against the Bible, whose claims are so unlike the mercenary character of its adherents, Mohammedism becomes an obstacle of no small magnitude to the progress of the Gospel, and it is steadily becoming greater. If Christians do not arise and possess the land, the followers of the false prophet will secure it for themselves.

Now is the time to work for Western Africa. The door is opened and an entrance gained. The favor and confidence of the people upon the coast is secured, and communications are continually extending toward the interior. Who will volunteer to go forth, and in the name of Christ withstand the evil influences with which Satan leads captive unwary souls, and which, though ages of heathenism have passed over the country, are still increasing?

Laborers should go furnished with copies of the Arabic Bible, to place in the hands of those who can read it, that the entrance of God's word may enlighten their darkness, and lead them to become ambassadors of Him whose name they now despise.

GEO. P. CLAFLIN.

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#### THE INTERNAL AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

The late report read at the annual meeting of the Ladies' Negroes' Friend Society (English) contains special reference to the terrible internal slave trading at present existing on the East Coast of Africa. A letter of Dr. Livingstone's fully confirms the terrible pictures obtained through other sources.

An extract from a pamphlet by an eye witness of the horrors which he describes, will give some idea of the awful sufferings inflicted on our fellow-men by the slave dealers in East Africa in the present day. Monsieur Menon, of the Island of Reunion, who was formerly engaged in promoting what he calls the African Emigration to the French colonies, describes the following scene on the river Lindie, on the East Coast:

"An Arab chief told us he had in the forest, at some leagues distance, a depot of eight hundred men, whom he would bring to us the next day. I asked the chief to conduct us to his depot, and at first he stubbornly refused. But when I promised him a rifle musket, which he eagerly desired to get, he consented, and led us thither. After three hours' march we arrived, but could see nothing. 'Where are they lodged?' we asked; and he pointed to a palisade of bamboo open to the sky, where they were exposed, at the worst season of the year, to a fiery sun, alternating with torrents of rain, and sometimes of hail, without any roof to cover them. A man of tall stature, with his spear in his hand, and a poignard in his belt, pulled up three posts, which served for a gate to the enclosure, and

we entered. There they were, naked as on the day of their birth, some of them with a long fork attached to their neck; that is, a heavy branch of a tree (*un grossiere branche d'arbre*) of fork-like shape, so arranged that it was impossible for them to step forward, the heavy handle of the fork, which they could not lift, effectually preventing them from advancing because of the pressure on their throat; others are chained together in parcels (*paquets*) of twenty. The keeper of this den utters a hoarse cry, (*pousse unrugissement*;) it is the order for the merchandise to stand up. But many of them do not obey. What is the matter? Our interpreter, who has gone among the groups, will tell us; listen to him. The chains are too short—the dead and dying prevent the living from rising. The dead can say nothing; but what do the dying say? They say, they are dying of hunger.”

We next come to the testimony of an eye witness, F. Saulter, a German missionary from Mr. Spittler's mercantile establishment: “I have found, during my stay in Khartoum, as well as in different travels up and down the Nile, that slave trading has always been going on, some on secret ways, some on the open road of the Government. On our way to Cairo, we encountered a vessel, with more than forty children, on the Nile, near Esneh, and lost sight of it near Siut; we were often, on occasion of contrary wind, together with them in one place for days. On another occasion I met with a transport of slaves in the desert between Khartoum and Berber. Slave trading is equally going on in Kordofan and Teggele, and on a large scale in Galabat, (neutral territory between Sennaar and Abyssinia,) where thousands of poor little Gallas are sold and smuggled through the Egyptian territory, or transported by the Red Sea. Of course, the negroes by turns have become deadly enemies to their white invaders, or to any vessel coming up the White River. Those obliged to stop will not go on shore, but cast anchor in the middle of the stream, nor go on their expeditions alone, but at least in companies of three or four, up to twelve vessels. The negroes assemble often by thousands to rescue their captive children and their cattle, and many a slave hunter has there paid with his life, or had a narrow escape. The shores of the White Nile are now waste for many hundreds of miles, as well as both shores of the Sobat river, and the ways for missions, as well as for honest commerce, have been closed for a long time. All Europeans, with one exception, have by and by retired from the traffic of the White Nile; and even two stations of the Roman Catholic mission, which has been founded with immense sacrifice, both of men and means, were obliged to leave, alternately attacked and ruined by the slave hunters and negroes. Almost all the

'stablimenti' on the White Nile up to the equator, and on the Ghazal river to the Njam-Njam, are now in the hands of one Mohammedan merchant named Agath, who brought immense quantities of ivory from his settlements in the year 1866, and who is said to be an agent of the Egyptian government. The trade is said to be exclusively in the hands of Mohammedans."

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#### STEAMSHIPS TO FOREIGN PORTS.

An important bill relating to certain foreign mails has been enacted. The Post Office Department is authorized to contract with parties in New York, for carrying the mails to specified foreign parts, at an expense not exceeding a given amount. This is doubtless wise, and it may result advantageously to the country.

But it is worthy of notice, that this bill has been conceived and pressed chiefly by interested parties and on principles of present benefit, and not on the broad ground of the best national policy among the nations for all time to come, and by petition of legislative and other bodies that have been animated as much by philanthropy as by private and public interest. Why was not Monrovia included in these parties? Why has the proposition of the Vermont Legislature for a line of steamers to Liberia, the colored man's Republic, received so little encouragement? Is it because no line from this country now exists, and no incorporated company has yet appeared to solicit a subsidy for steamers to that quarter? Must the Government act solely upon the selfish principle? Be it so. It requires no great sagacity to foresee that the time is not far distant when Liberian products and commerce will command what her friends now invite the Government to secure to itself. Years hence the folly of delay will be seen. Alas for the country that disdains her own child! Steamships for Europe, but none for Africa—is this wise?—*Vermont Chronicle.*

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From the New Orleans Advocate.

#### HO FOR AFRICA!

As some of the members of our church, and one of our ministers, Rev. Hardy Ryan, have emigrated to Africa, and as there is a growing interest in their fatherland on the part of many colored people, we have thought best to give some information in regard to Liberia, in Africa.

In the year 1820 the first emigrant ship from this country reached there. It was but a small colony, but since then the Colonization Society have been instrumental in sending there about fifteen thousand persons.

This State has now about two hundred thousand inhabitants, many of whom are natives, who have become enlightened and Christianized. Many are the little towns and villages that are springing up throughout the country. There are fifty churches, with three thousand communicants. The schools are on the same plan as those in our northern States. Besides the common district schools there are three academies and a College in a prosperous condition.

The government is conducted wholly by colored men of ability and education. They have made treaties with fifteen European and American governments.

During the years 1865, 1866, and 1867 the Colonization Society paid the passages of seventeen hundred and eighty-one emigrants to Liberia. At the first of last March three thousand other applicants were waiting to be sent; but the Society had not the means to send them. They continue, however, to assist as many as possible in reaching there. As applications continue to come in, the Society are seeking aid from every quarter. Efforts have been made to start a regular line of steamships between this country and Liberia, and it is hoped that they will ere long succeed. The voyage will then consume but a few days. Now, by sailing vessels, it takes about five weeks. The Colonization Society owns a vessel which will carry comfortably six hundred and fifty persons. They have agents and physicians in Liberia, and for six months emigrants are provided with houses and provisions without charge, if necessary. By that time they will, of course, be able to support themselves easily. Each family is provided with twenty-five acres of land; an unmarried man receives ten acres. It will be seen, therefore, that those going to Liberia do not go into a wilderness, and among those who have no sympathy with new comers. On the contrary, they go to a well-cultivated country, where friendly hearts greet them on their arrival with words of welcome, and provide for their wants.

We shall endeavor soon to give information in regard to the climate, soil, and productions of Liberia, all of which we understand to be favorable.

O what a glorious period in which to live is this for the colored man! A period when he sees the shackles stricken from millions of his race, and the rights of citizenship bestowed upon them. A period when a strong State Government has been organized in his own fatherland, and kindly hands are stretched forth to greet and protect him as he turns his steps thereto.

Africa was far back in heathenish darkness, and the Lord allowed stronger men of a civilized nation to bear thousands of these benighted heathen across the sea into the midst of a Christian nation; men brought them for selfish purposes, but

a God of infinite wisdom and power is to overrule the wickedness of men and bring glory to Himself. While suffering a cruel bondage they increased to four millions in number, and then, by a power above man's, they were freed. Their bondage has tended to make them feel their dependence on God and to seek after Him. Now will their thoughts naturally turn to the land from which their fathers came, and we may surely believe that teachers and preachers are to rise up in America by the ten thousand to go to Africa to elevate, enlighten, and Christianize the millions of their own benighted race. And to-day

"Where Afric's sunny fountains  
Roll down their golden sands,  
They call us to deliver  
Their land from error's chain."

Will you go, or will you at the least teach your children that it is their duty to go after they are grown and educated? Keep the evangelization of their fatherland continually before them. Awaken their ambition and impress upon them the imperative duty of doing *everything* possible for the speedy enlightenment thereof. Let these teachings be constantly instilled into the minds of the colored people of America throughout the years to come, until Africa—

"The earth's remotest nation,  
Has learned Messiah's name."

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#### EX-PRESIDENT ROBERTS.

Ex-President Roberts, of Liberia, who has been in this country for several months, has established his temporary residence in Washington. Mr. Roberts, though no longer holding an official relation to the Republic of Liberia, with whose whole history he is so closely identified, still retains the liveliest interest in its welfare, and is now devoting himself principally to the educational interests of his country as President of Liberia College. The military and civil career of this distinguished gentleman in Liberia are too well known to need repetition in these days. All who are brought in contact with him are impressed with the dignity of his appearance and manner, and the keen shrewdness and far-seeing wisdom of his observations. Ex-President Roberts presents in his own person the strongest argument in favor of Liberian colonization, and his sojourn in this country is doing much to renew the interest in the whole subject of the eventual return of a large portion of his race to their native land.

During ex-President Roberts' recent visit to this city, he was the recipient of the hospitalities of some of our leading citizens; and it is a noteworthy coincidence, that while the Prince-

ton Alumni were engaged in honoring Scotland by their reception of the Rev. Dr. McCosh, at the Rev. Dr. Crowell's Church, Ex-President Roberts was being entertained in the adjoining house by one of our most eminent citizens—the two events forming another of the striking illustrations of that grand catholicity by which America fuses all nationalities into one.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

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From the Christian Advocate.

#### LIBERIA—AN INTERESTING MEETING.

Hon. Joseph J. Roberts, ex-President of the Republic of Liberia, delivered in the John-street-Church an interesting address on the social, educational, and religious condition of Liberia. Mr. Roberts, who is a brother of Bishop Roberts, of the Liberia Conference, was the first President of the Republic, and filled the office for eight consecutive years. He has been over forty years a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and enjoys the esteem not only of his own Church, but of the whole people. He is now President of the Liberia College, and visits this country in behalf of its interests. Friends in Boston have built at Monrovia a commodious edifice, and one professorship has been endowed. The institution requires for its support the endowment of three. We trust the generous friends of Liberia, and of Christian education in Africa, will give him a favorable hearing, and place this most important institution, for the redemption of that continent, upon a permanent foundation.

President Roberts is a pleasant speaker, and his modesty and dignity and Christian urbanity commend him to the confidence of all who meet him. In his address on Sunday evening he rapidly and lucidly sketched the early history of the Republic. He then showed that the several objects contemplated in its establishment had been realized: those objects being, first, to establish an asylum for the free negroes of the United States; second, to test the capacity of the negro for self-government; third, to check the slave trade; and fourth, to carry civilization and Christianity into Africa. The four objects of the originators of the enterprise have not proved to be visionary. Liberia did, and still does, furnish an asylum for any who choose to avail themselves of its advantages. It has shown the capacity of the African race for self-government. It has been efficient in suppressing the slave traffic. Years ago the Government broke up all the barracoons along its six hundred miles of coast, and has never allowed any to be established there since. It has had at least some civilizing influences. More than four thousand slaves taken out of the holds of savel

ships have been taught the arts of civilized life, and turned into good citizens. As to religion, though there are but two or three white missionaries, there are between forty and fifty churches, nearly half of which are Methodist.

In response to inquiries, President Roberts stated that Liberia was very deficient in the means of education. They had some well-educated men among them, but there was such a deficiency of capital as to make it impossible for their College and schools to meet all the demands which were made upon them. The College had a grand field, but was hampered by poverty. The population of Liberia was stated by President Roberts to be about 600,000, of which from 15,000 to 18,000 were colored persons who had emigrated from America.

During the meeting an affecting incident transpired. After President Roberts had described the great desire of the native African chiefs to send their children to the College, and then stated their inability to do so because of their poverty, a young colored woman, leaving her seat in the rear of the congregation, came quietly forward, and, passing before the altar railing, handed Mr. Roberts a dollar, her whole fortune, with a whispered request that he would use it for the benefit of those seeking an education. That gift was as "the widow's mite." Let it be suggestive to those of larger means.

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A MANDINGO SCHOLAR AND THE ARABIC CLASS IN  
LIBERIA COLLEGE.

MONROVIA, *November 23, 1868.*

DEAR SIR: On the 14th instant, a learned Mohammedan from Kankan, a considerable Muslim town in the far interior, about five weeks' continuous journey from here, visited the seaboard, and spent a few days at my house. He not only read and wrote the Arabic readily, but spoke it fluently; and I was glad to find that by means of that language I could hold intercourse with him without an interpreter.

On Sunday, the 15th, he visited the Episcopal Church of which Rev. G. W. Gibson is rector, and seemed to take great interest in the services. He appeared much pleased with the organ and singing.

On Monday, the 10th, he visited the College, and heard the class in Arabic read. I handed him my book and told him to act as teacher for the day. The lesson read was the latter part of the 1st chapter of John's Gospel. Of course he could not judge of the translation, for he knows not a word of Eng-

lish; but he corrected their Arabic pronunciation when they made mistakes; whenever they pronounced correctly, he would smile and give approving nods of the head. After the lesson, I requested him to read the whole chapter, that the boys might hear the sounds of the difficult letters as given by a learned native.

Professor Freeman expressed a desire to have a copy of his photograph to send to some of his friends in America, as one proof out of thousands that might be adduced from among the aborigines of this country of the gross injustice which the Notts and Gliddons have done to the negro race.

While some here—a very few, however—are looking to Europe and America for foreigners to come with their money to *make* this country for us, many of us are looking to the rich, unadulterated, unemasculated native element, believing that we have here the resources for a large and powerful nationality, if we only avail ourselves of them.

Very truly, yours,

EDW'D W. BLYDEN.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY AND OF THE BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS.

The Fifty-Second Anniversary of the American Colonization Society was celebrated in the First Baptist Church, 13th street, near G, Washington, D. C., on Tuesday evening, January 19th, the President, Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, in the chair. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Tracy, of Boston, and addresses were made by Rev. Doctors Prime and Haight, of New York, and ex-President Roberts of Liberia. The audience was good in point of numbers and respectability, and the able and eloquent speakers set forth the necessity and progress of African Colonization and its claims upon the sympathy and aid of the patriot, philanthropist, and Christian, and highly commended the great work which the Society has already accomplished and which it is hoped it will do for the African race.

The Board of Directors met at the rooms of the Society on the same day at twelve o'clock, and held long and laborious sessions on the succeeding day and evening. The President of the Society presided with his accustomed dignity and ability,

and much interesting and valuable information in regard to the condition and prospects of Liberia was imparted by its able and judicious ex-President, Roberts, who has resided there some forty years. The attendance of Delegates and Life Directors was unusually large, and it is safe to say that no meeting of that body has ever excelled the last in the thoroughness of attention to the various topics of business, and the elevated tone and courtesy with which the doings and discussions of the Board were directed.

Considerable attention was given to the subject of emigration to Liberia, and it was determined that increased care in the selection from those applying for passage be made, so as to secure the most promising class of the people of color, and that those hereafter sent be provided with a more liberal outfit and followed with longer attention and support, if necessary, in their new homes, with a view to make their settlement as successful as it can possibly be made.

The financial condition of the Society was considered with solicitude. Its receipts continue to fall below its necessary expenditures. Hundreds of Christian colored people are contemplating missionary work among their own kindred according to the flesh in Africa. But we assure the friends of this cause that, unless the resources of the Society be increased, the continuance of its operations, for which they look, will be impossible. We invoke, therefore, their prompt and generous aid.

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#### ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

THE CAUSE IN ILLINOIS.—Rev. George S. Inglis, Agent of the American Colonization Society for the State of Illinois, regrets that, owing to business which was in his hands to be disposed of when he received his appointment some three months ago, he has been unable to enter as yet fully upon his work, but expects, Providence permitting, soon to be able to give his entire attention to the noble philanthropic enterprise he has espoused.

EAST AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.—A mission from his Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar, accredited to the British Government, has arrived in London. It consists of Sayyid Mahommed bin Salim, and Sayyid Ahmed bin Sulieman, two Arab chiefs of the highest rank at his Highness's Court, and Hajee Mahommed Bakushmir, the confidential secretary of the Sultan, accompanied by nine Arab attendants. The object of the mission is connected with the suppression of the slave-trade on the East coast of Africa.

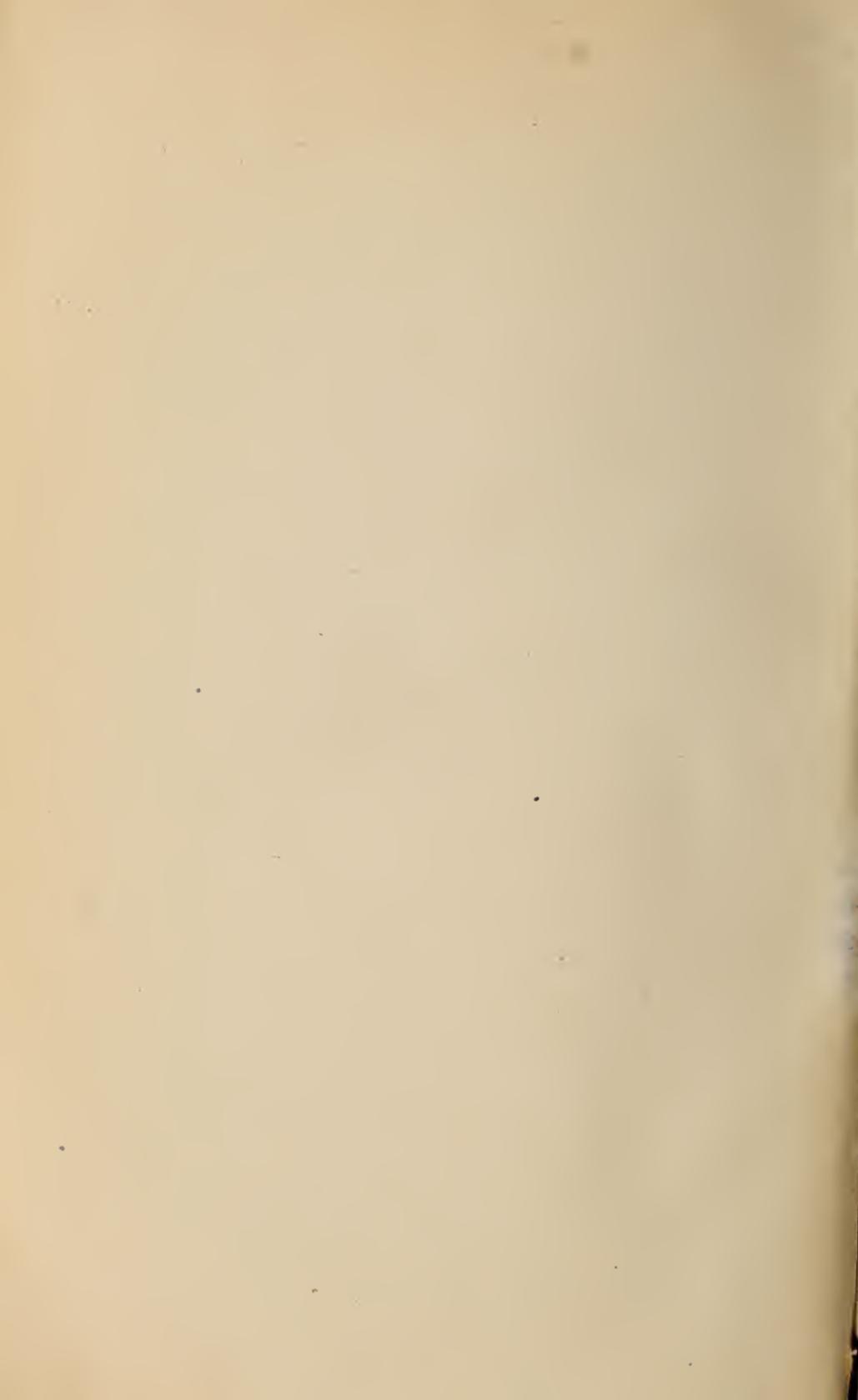
BEREBY is about fifty miles below Cape Palmas, and twenty miles from Taboo river and station. Several years ago a young Krooman from that place came to Cape Palmas, and after instruction was baptized by Rev. C. C. Hoffman. Afterwards he went to Boston, America, where he spent a year or two. Returning home he got on board a French ship and made his way to Paris. Here he inspired so much confidence that a merchant supplied him with goods to commence trade. M. lately returned home in the monthly steamer. While interested in trade he is very anxious to have a Mission Station begun in his country.—*Cavalla Messenger*.

### Receipts of the American Colonization Society,

From the 20th of Dec'r, 1868, to the 20th of Jan'y, 1869.

<b>MAINE.</b>		beria of a family of emigrants by the Golconda, May, 1868.....	1,000 00
<i>Bangor</i> —Dr. T. U. Coe.....	4 00		
<b>VERMONT.</b>			5,463 06
<i>Burlington</i> —Job Lyman.....	10 00	<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.</b>	
		<i>Washington</i> —Miscellaneous.....	794 06
<b>MASSACHUSETTS.</b>		<b>GEORGIA.</b>	
<i>Fitchburg</i> —Thomas E. Daniels....	100 00	<i>Augusta</i> —Robert Campbell, Esq.	30 00
<b>CONNECTICUT.</b>		<b>ILLINOIS.</b>	
<i>Hartford</i> —Mrs. R. Watkinson, by Hon. S. H. Huntington.....	30 00	By Rev. G. S. Inglis, (\$23.13.)	
By Rev. J. R. Miller (\$263.)		<i>Berlin, Mercer Co.</i> —Swedish Luth. Church collection, \$13.60; Small Swedish Meth. Church col., \$3; George Knowles, \$1....	17 60
J. B. Hosmer, \$30; D. P. Crosby, J. W. Beach, cash; W. B. Burrall, Wm. B. Turner, S. S. Ward, Lucius Barbor, Charles Seymour, cash, each \$10; T. Wadsworth, C. H. Northam, E. B. Watkinson, H. H. Bar- bour, each \$5.....	140 00	<i>Andover, Henry Co.</i> —Small Swed- ish Meth. Church col., \$3 33; Miscellaneous, \$2.20.....	5 53
<i>New Haven</i> —T. Bishop, Misses Gerry, A. Heaton, Mrs. E. C. Read, each \$10; T. W. Woolsey, R. I. Ingersoll, W. T. Fellows, cash, each \$5; Mrs. C. A. Inger- soll, \$3; Mrs. Eliza Ives, Mrs. S. A. Stephens, E. B. Bouditch, C. B. Whittlesey, each \$2; Mrs. T. B. Bouditch, cash, each \$1....	73 00		23 13
<i>Plantsville</i> —Dea. T. Higgins.....	50 00	<b>FOR REPOSITORY.</b>	
	293 00	<b>MAINE</b> — <i>Bangor</i> —Dr. T. U. Coe, for 1869.....	1 00
<b>NEW YORK.</b>		<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> — <i>Bedford</i> —S. McQueston, for 1868.....	1 00
<i>New York City</i> —Z. Stiles Ely.....	50 00	<b>VERMONT</b> — <i>Burlington</i> —Job Ly- man, for 1869, \$1; <i>St. Johnsbury</i> , Elkannah Cobb, for 1869, \$1.....	2 00
By Rev. Dr. Orcutt (\$140.)		<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b> — <i>Medford</i> —Dud- ley Hall, to January 1, 1869, \$13; <i>Hingham</i> —Morris Fearing, for 1869, \$1.....	14 00
<i>New York City</i> —H. K. Bull \$30, Hiram A. Crane \$10.....	40 00	<b>NEW YORK</b> — <i>Albany</i> —Royal Woodward, for 1869, \$1; <i>Har- lem</i> —H. W. Ripley, for 1869, \$1..	2 00
<i>Albany</i> —Hon. Erastus Corning... 190 00	100 00	<b>MARYLAND</b> — <i>Taneytown</i> —Miss M. Birnie, for 1869.....	1 00
<b>NEW JERSEY.</b>		<b>VIRGINIA</b> — <i>Alexandria</i> —Rev. C. Robinson, to January 1, 1870....	2 00
<i>Jersey City</i> —Hon. D. S. Gregory..	25 00	<b>TENNESSEE</b> — <i>Nashville</i> —William Slatter, to January 1, 1871....	2 00
<b>PENNSYLVANIA.</b>		<b>OHIO</b> — <i>Springfield</i> —W. W. Rice, for 1869.....	1 00
<i>Philadelphia</i> —Legacy, in full, of Hon. Edward Coles, \$4,878.00, less State Collateral Inheri- tance tax and U. S. tax, \$415.94... Pennsylvania Coloniza'n Soc'y, by Rev. Thomas S. Malcom, Cor. Sec., and Ass't Treas., for the passage and support in Li-	4,463 06	<b>WISCONSIN</b> — <i>Kenosha</i> —Mrs. Ly- dia Hanson, for 1869.....	1 00
		Repository.....	27 00
		Legacy.....	4,463 06
		Donations.....	1,675 13
		Miscellaneous.....	794 06
		<b>Total</b> .....	\$6,959 25





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