

# MARYLAND COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MANAGERS OF THE STATE FUND

Vol. I.

Baltimore, April, 1837.

No. 9.

When gratuitous, please circulate.

## MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

President.

JOHN H. B. LATROBE.

Vice-Presidents.

THOS. E. BOND, SEN. CHARLES HOWARD,  
LUKE TIERNAN, CHARLES C. HARPER,  
PETER HOFFMAN, P. R. HOFFMAN.

Managers.

HUGH D. EVANS, WILLIAM R. STUART,  
JOHN FONERDEN, GEORGE S. GIBSON,  
JOHN H. BRISCOE, LUTHER J. COX,  
JOHN G. PROUD, WILLIAM MASON,  
WM. CRANE, FRANCIS H. SMITH,  
WM. WOODWARD, GEORGE M. ROGERS.

FRANKLIN ANDERSON, Corresponding Secretary.  
WM. F. GILES, Recording Secretary.  
ROBERT MICKLE, Treasurer.

Agents.

REV. IRA A. EASTER, Home Agent.  
REV. JOHN H. KENNARD, Travelling Agent.

Managers of the Maryland State Fund,

Under an act relating to the people of colour in this state, appointed by the Executive of the state of Maryland.

CHARLES HOWARD,  
PETER HOFFMAN,  
WILLIAM R. STUART.

MISSIONARIES AT CAPE PALMAS.

From the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Rev. J. Leighton Wilson and lady.  
Rev. David White and lady.  
Mr. B. Van Rensselaer James, printer and assistant missionary. (Coloured.)

From the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Rev. Thomas S. Savage, M. D.  
Rev. James Thompson and lady. (Coloured.)

From the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Mr. Burnes, (Coloured.)  
Rev. Isaac Welsh, do.

From the Methodist Protestant Church.

Rev. David James. (Coloured.)

NOTE.—The Rev. Messrs. Payne and Minor will join Dr. Savage and Mr. Thompson in the spring.

Officers for the government of Maryland in Liberia.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE SOCIETY.

JOHN B. RUSSWURM, Agent.  
REV. GEO. R. MCGILL, Assistant Agent.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE AGENT.

JAMES M. THOMPSON, Colonial Secretary.  
WILLIAM POLK, Storekeeper and Surveyor.  
JACOB GROSS, Overseer of the Public Farm.  
ANTHONY WOOD, } Justices of the Peace.  
THOMAS JACKSON, }  
BENJAMIN JOHNSON, Collector.  
JOSHUA STUART, Auctioneer.

ELECTIONS BY THE PEOPLE.

JACOB GROSS, Vice Agent.  
NATHAN LEIGH, }  
ALEXANDER HANCE, } Counsellors.  
WILLIAM HAWKINS, }  
WILLIAM POLK, Register.  
THOMAS JACKSON, Treasurer.  
JOB COATES, }  
GEORGE HARDY, } Committee on  
WILLIAM REYNOLDS, } New Emigrants.  
JOHN HARRIS, }  
HENRY DUNCAN, } Selectmen.

## FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

Since the date of the last annual report, the board of managers have to announce the sailing of two expeditions for the colony of Maryland in Liberia, making the sixth and seventh vessels that have been despatched with emigrants and supplies from Baltimore, since the society determined upon the establishment of an independent colony for the use of the emigrants from Maryland.

COMMUNICATION FROM KING FREEMAN.

The schooner Financier left Baltimore with seventeen emigrants, on the 9th of July last; and the brig Niobe sailed with thirty-two emigrants, on the 31st of October following.—The Financier carried home Simleh Balla, the messenger or envoy, sent by the king of Cape Palmas, the principal chief of the native tribes, on whose territories the colony of the state society was founded, to the board of managers. This man, who was a shrewd intelligent individual, and the second in rank and importance under his chief, visited the United States at the request of King Freeman, that he might see for himself and report to the king, whether all those things were true, which the society's agent had reported in Africa, concerning the power of the white man, and the presence here of a large portion of the African race in slavery; and especially was Simleh Balla required, if he found the white man as he was described to be, to obtain from the society a code of laws for the native government; the king distrusting those which the representative in Africa offered, and desirous to obtain

them from the same power directly that gave laws to the agent himself. After a residence of near two months in the state, the individual in question returned in the Financier, highly gratified with what he had seen and heard, deeply impressed with the power of the Americans, and furnished with a short and simple code of laws adapted to the wants, and within the comprehension of the unlettered and uncivilized people for whose use they were compiled. Intelligence has been received from Simleh Balla, since his return home, and the anticipations of the society with regard to the useful results of his visit seem in a fair way to be realized. The king had convened his head-men and proclaimed the laws sent out by the society; and those of them even which jarred most with every-day customs were unhesitatingly adopted.

A letter from the king, said by the missionary, who wrote it at his dictation, to be verbatim in the *lingua franca* used on the coast, will be found in the appendix. It is an interesting document, and leads the mind forward to anticipate the day when the full blessings of colonization will be realized, not only to this country, but to Africa also, as her inhabitants are civilized and enlightened by its happy influences.

## MISSIONARIES.

The Niobe, besides the emigrants, took out the Rev. David White and lady, missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions, and Dr. Savage, missionary of the Protestant Episcopal church. An intelligent coloured man, educated as a printer, accompanied Mr. White, to work and manage the press, sent by the American Board to the colony. David James, one of the emigrants from Cecil county, was appointed, before the Niobe sailed, agent for the Methodist Protestant church, with a view to prepare for the establishment of a mission at Cape Palmas, by that denomination of christians.

The board of managers rejoice much at the position which Cape Palmas already occupies, as a missionary station. The advantages of missionary labour will be felt there, not only by the heathen, who are more particularly its objects, but also by the colonists; and the result will no doubt be the cultivation and maintenance of a sentiment of order, and a deep sense of religion in the young community that will exhibit the happiest influences in every stage of its future history.

The superior salubrity of Cape Palmas over the other settlements on the coast has attracted to it the notice that has made it the important missionary station that it now is; and in the health, not only of the emigrants, to whom the climate is naturally congenial, but also of the white persons who have resided there, the board have the best reasons for rejoicing in the selection made by them for the site of their colony.

RESIGNATION OF DR. HALL.—RETURN OF MR. HOLMES.

In the last annual report, it was stated that Dr. Hall, the intelligent and estimable individual who had founded the settlement and acted for two years as its first governor, had applied for leave to return to the United States, which had been granted; and it was also stated that Oliver Holmes, Esq. had been appointed agent *pro tempore*, to proceed to Africa and take the place of Dr. Hall there, until a permanent appointment could be made.

Mr. Holmes sailed accordingly in the Fortune, in the fall of 1835, and fortunately reached the colony before Dr. Hall had left there. In a short time he passed through the acclimating fever, and recovered his health; and upon Dr. Hall's returning to the United States, found himself in charge of the colony. His administration of its affairs appears to have been firm and successful; and it gives the board pleasure to express their satisfaction with his zeal and energy. Led by devotion to the cause of colonization to visit Africa, he has entitled himself to be ranked among those who have perilled life to do service to that country—a long and honourable list of enthusiastic labourers, in a cause that has already claimed many martyrs.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. RUSSWURM.

The temporary character of Dr. Holmes' appointment made it necessary for the board of managers to provide for a permanent successor, and after mature deliberation they selected John B. Russwurm, of Monrovia, and forwarded to him the commission of agent of the State Society and governor of Maryland in Liberia. Mr. Russwurm is a man of colour, who, after receiving a complete classical education in one of the northern colleges, settled in New York, where he distinguished himself as the editor of a paper, devoted to the abolition cause. Colonization was then unknown to him; but becoming afterwards acquainted with its principles and object, he boldly disavowed the abolition doctrines that he had once advocated, denounced them in his paper, and illustrated the sincerity of his convictions by emigrating ten years ago to Liberia, where he has since remained, the senior member of the first commercial house at Monrovia, universally respected for his talents, industry and integrity. He is a man of rare education for one of his colour, of exemplary deportment, and in

every respect qualified to discharge the duties consequent upon his appointment. Information has been received of his acceptance of the office, and the board entertain no doubt that his conduct in it will justify fully the propriety of bestowing it upon him.

The board are aware they have no precedent in the appointment of a coloured agent in Africa to act for a colonization society in the United States, and that they have set an example in this respect; but, under all circumstances and upon mature reflection, they are satisfied that their course has been the proper one. Ultimately, the government of the colonies on the coast of Africa must pass into the hands of the colonists, and the tutelage of the societies in this country must cease. This is admitted on all hands. In the United States the coloured people are habituated to seeing all power in the hands of the whites. Here they know no other rulers. Hitherto, in Africa it has been the same. The power there was still in the hands of a white man; and the impression, so adverse to a proper exercise of their full capacities for self-government, was still maintained, that the duties of agent and governor could only be discharged by one of a different colour from the colonists themselves. The great difficulty to be overcome, in fitting the colonists for the task of self-government, was inspiring them, not a few ambitious and self-important individuals, but the whole mass, with the belief that they were competent to it; and this could never be done, while the system of white overseers, to which most of them were accustomed in the United States, was kept up in Africa. The smaller the community too, the easier the board thought it could be governed by a coloured man, the less difficult would be its affairs to manage so far as he was concerned, and the fewer would be the malcontents and opposers of his authority. As the small colony also grew to be a large one, the new emigrants would find an order of things established, against which opposition would be useless, and would fall at once into the habits and convictions of the already established colonists. Under all these circumstances, therefore, and especially as the board found an individual fitted in all respects for the station, they determined, while their settlement was yet young and its numbers were few, to appoint a coloured agent, and accordingly they selected Mr. Russwurm.

## AGENCIES.

Various causes, beyond the control of the Board of Managers and which it is here unnecessary to enumerate, have hitherto prevented so full a canvass of the State as could have been desired, and the effects of a want of very active effort have been apparent in the small number of emigrants that have sailed for Cape Palmas during the past year. By an arrangement with the Young Men's Society, however, this difficulty will be avoided in future. The agent of the State Society, the Rev. Ira A. Easter, who is also the agent of the Managers of the State fund, has had assigned to him all the duties connected with the operations of the society; such as the shipment of emigrants, the care of the local correspondence, the superintendence and keeping of the society's books, that require the presence of an agent in the office in Baltimore; while the agent associated with him, the Rev. John H. Kennard, has assigned to him the duty of travelling from one part of the state to another, spreading information, procuring emigrants, and attending to the preparations for their departure, and the formation of auxiliary societies wherever practicable. This combination of effort by the two agents here mentioned, will secure a constant and vigorous prosecution of the plans of the State Society. The prospects for a large expedition in the spring are very flattering; and there is every indication that the prejudices of the coloured people, and especially those who are free, are gradually yielding to the conviction, that here they are at the best but wanderers and outcasts, without the prospect of moral or political aggrandizement, and that Africa is their true and appropriate home.

ULTIMATE RESULTS OF COLONIZATION.

The Board of Managers confidently anticipate the time, and that not far removed, when the voluntary emigration of the coloured population of the United States to Africa, will equal that which takes place from Europe to this country. All that is necessary to bring this about, is to make Africa as attractive to the coloured people, as America is to the European, which is to be done by the establishment there of happy, healthy, well-governed, and prosperous communities, capable of self-support and self-defence. This is now in rapid progress. Three years since Cape Palmas was a wilderness, with untutored savages for its inhabitants. It is now the boast of the Western coast. It has a population of three hundred emigrants, and four christian churches have established there their missionary settlements. With the colony at Bassa it is the same. The state of Mississippi is about founding another colony, and doubtless with equal success. When colonies shall thus be multiplied, and when the trade that must be the consequence is seen by the coloured peo-

ple in this country, Africa will then be thought to offer the same inducements to them for emigration that the United States does to the European; and when this is the case it will not be many years before the free coloured population, and such of the slaves as become free, will deem it a privilege and not an exile, to emigrate to the colonies of Liberia. Were the same emigration to take place from the United States which now takes place from Europe, four times the present annual increase of the coloured population would be annually removed—and at that rate the objects of colonization would before long be accomplished.—That such may be the result, it especially behoves all the friends of colonization to be active and untiring in their efforts; and to be satisfied that every thing which tends to make the colonies in Africa attractive, is directly in aid of the scheme which they support, even though the number of emigrants sent there in any one year should be less than they would have desired. Of the justice of the reasoning here used, the Board of Managers are convinced by their experience; and they feel satisfied that the time is now at hand when the liberal and enlightened policy of the state in regard to colonization is to be realized; and when the colony of Maryland in Liberia, planted by her bounty, will become the home of thousands of voluntary emigrants from Maryland in America.

## INDEPENDENT STATE ACTION.

Another year's experience since the last annual report, has still further corroborated the Board of Managers in their conviction of the superiority of the plan of independent state action in regard to colonization over any other that has been suggested. They contend and uphold that the subject of slavery is one that concerns exclusively the states in which it exists, and they deprecate and would resist any interference with it by the general government, by other states, or by societies, or individuals out of the state of Maryland.—Especially do they regret that any attempt should be made to invoke the action of congress on the subject, well assured that to do so would only be to make colonization the theme of political contention, to be used as the means of renewing, in the national legislature, those fiery and unnatural discussions whose tendency is evil, and whose only effect must be to weaken the bonds which hold the states together, by sowing enmity and distrust between the different members of the confederacy. While the subject of slavery, and colonization as connected with it, are made matters of state concernment exclusively,—while all extraneous influences and interferences are repudiated and resisted, and while the discussion above alluded to is prevented from taking place in the halls of congress, the subject of slavery can never become the one on which our existence as a united people will depend. Otherwise, it is impossible to foresee the consequences.

The views here taken have been fully sustained by the policy of Maryland, and the conduct of the State Society throughout.—The appropriation law was based upon the principle of independent state action. Maryland has now her separate colony on the coast of Africa; and the State Society exercise exclusively all the powers of government within it. In the late message of the executive of this state, the same views are taken; and the Board of Managers trust and hope, that the day is not far distant when colonization will be in the hands of the states exclusively, and when all matters of general concern will be settled by a convention of delegates from the state societies, the unity of whose action will be confined to Africa alone, while in this country each state will be left to pursue her own policy by the means that she considers most appropriate to her condition.

The Board of Managers must not be considered as saying any thing in disparagement of the American Colonization Society. To this body we are indebted for that proof without which colonization would still be an untried scheme. The American Colonization Society has proved the practicability of establishing colonies on the coast of Africa, capable of self-support, self-defence, and self-increase, and has thereby won the praise and the everlasting thanks of the friends of Africa, of her sons and daughters, and of humanity and philanthropy. But having done this, the appropriate functions of that society are at an end. The discordant views entertained among the friends of colonization themselves throughout our wide country, forbid the idea of such an unity of sentiment and action in any general society as is necessary to entire success; while this very discord, which in the nature of things it would seem impossible to soothe, indicates most apparently a system of independent state action as the only one by which colonization can be successfully prosecuted.

## ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY.

Since the last annual report, large acquisitions of territory have been made around the settlement at Cape Palmas, and the State Society now owns both sides of the Cavalry, a broad and noble river, from its mouth to the town of Denah, about thirty miles from the ocean. The agent, Dr. Hall, ascended the river, to the cataracts at Faye and reached