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American Society for the Promotion of Education in Africa.

Just as our paper was going to press, we received the following letters from the corresponding Secretary of the American Society for the promotion of education in Africa, and other matter was removed to give place to a subject in which all the friends of the African race must feel a lively interest. We have neither time nor space for further remarks, but feel warranted in saying that the society appears to possess the elements of popularity and of course, success. With all our heart we wish that abundant success may attend the effort, and if managed with discretion and prosecuted with energy we can see nothing to prevent it. At another time we may resume the subject.

Office of the American Society for the Promotion of Education in Africa, March 23rd, 1837.

Rev'd and dear Sir—Your interesting communication of the 21st inst., addressed to the Rev. Dr. Proudfit, making inquiries in regard to the 'American Society for the promotion of Education in Africa,' was handed to me a few moments ago, and I hasten with great pleasure to answer it.

The queries contained in your letter are answered in the circular of the society, which accompanies this. You perceive the plan of our society embraces education in all its departments, from the elementary school to the college; and the field of our effort comprehends the continent of Africa, including of course all the American colonies. Our first teachers must be sent from this country, white or coloured, as we can obtain them of suitable qualifications. We expect to commence our operations in Africa immediately, by sending out in the next expedition, which will sail in the course of six weeks or two months, several able teachers, together with one or more mechanics. We have not yet fixed upon any particular location for our schools, and I wish particularly to know the advantages of your colony at Cape Palmas, as regards health, soil, relation to the different colonies, communication with the natives, communication with the coast, and any other circumstance that might affect the interest of education in Africa. I should be greatly obliged for any suggestions which the experiment of Mr. Wilson might furnish.

In devoting themselves to the promotion of education in Africa, the Society feel that they have assumed the responsibilities of a most important department in the great scheme which is now engaging the hearts and energies of so many of the pious and philanthropic, for the disenthralment and elevation of the coloured race. They believe also, that the time has fully come, and that the exigencies of the cause demand a separate and concentrated action upon this particular form of benevolence. The society was also deeply anxious that their institution should be so organized, both as regards its principles and objects, as most effectually to unite in its behalf, all the friends of the coloured race, however they may differ from each other on some questions of policy and even of principle. It is a gratifying reflection that they can, and what is most cheering, there is reason to believe they will unite in blessing the colonies, and through them, the ignorant and dying millions of Africa, with the means of education. Already has the indifferent been aroused to interest, the lover of African colonization felt the glow of deeper emotion for the cause he has espoused, and been stimulated to greater efforts in promoting it—while some who have looked upon Liberia with fear, or distrust, or opposition, have been enabled, through the medium of the plan now devised, to behold it with favour.

Will not your society, my dear sir, and the friends of colonization, and of Africa, in Maryland, aid us in this great and good work.—Will you not write me fully on this subject, and believe me, in great haste, your unworthy co-labourer for Africa.

R. D. Turner.

New York, March 23d, 1837.

Dear Sir:

The American society for the promotion of education in Africa, as its name implies, proposes to extend the blessings of christian education to the benighted millions of Africa.—The society cherishes the hope that the plan which has been adopted will recommend it to the favour and sympathy of the benevolent in the United States. We would for a moment speak of this. Education for a people ignorant and degraded like those we would benefit, must for some time be confined to elementary stages. It is therefore proposed to commence with several branches of useful knowledge that are most needed, and to establish a department

1. For Agriculture,
2. For Mechanics,
3. For Grammar, Geography, and Arithmetic,
4. For commerce and navigation.

Over these departments to place practical and well qualified professors; that is to say, a farmer for the first, two or more mechanics, (as a *shoemaker*, *blacksmith*, and *hatter*,) for the second; and educated and scientific teachers, with a carpenter and boat builder over the third and fourth.

These branches will, to a good degree, sustain themselves; perhaps, after two or three years, all but the third will exceed this, and become sources of profit.

2. Associated with this part of our scheme, and under the superintendence of the society, will be common and Sabbath schools, in both of which the Bible shall be read and studied.

5. As the enterprise advances, and the condition of the people justifies it, the higher branches of education will be introduced.

4. It will be an object of early solicitude and constant care, to qualify teachers of common schools from among the native population of Africa, so that the work of moral elevation shall, as much is practicable, be carried on by themselves; for we are persuaded that no simple moral cause can be more effective towards the restoration of a degraded people, than to awaken a realizing sense of their responsibilities, to induce a conviction that the burden rests upon them; and when they shall feel this, they will begin to rise.

5. The schools, with the necessary buildings, and improvements, to be established at some suitable place in Africa, and the whole to be under the superintendence and care of a board of trustees in the United States. This board to appoint all the officers of the institution, to exercise a constant supervision, and to receive and to lay before their patrons stated reports of the condition and progress of the schools.

Such is a brief outline of our scheme; and we ask for it the patronage and prayers of our fellow citizens. That it attempts great things we know; that it will accomplish great things we hope; if God shall bless it, and the wise and virtuous sustain us, we confidently expect results, extensive as the wretchedness of a whole continent, and lasting as eternity.

When we consider this charity in its relations to our country, let us not forget to view it in the claims of its justice. We have deeply injured Africa. She has a long and bloody page of wrongs booked against us. Among the blackest in the catalogue, is the use we have made of her degradation. We did not, as we might, persuade her people into the habits of lawful and christian commerce; on the contrary, we tempted their cupidity, and bribed them to steal and sell their brethren.

The slave trade, with all its atrocities, was once a cherished branch of our active commerce. The American flag has waved a thousand times over groaning cargoes of kidnapped men. Who will not confess that recompense to the injured is our duty. We owe it to history. The record of our wrongs can never be effaced. Let us, then, place on the same page, the only atonement in our power, a full and overflowing measure of reparation.

But the subject has broader relations. If there were no appeals to our justice, the contemplated work is among the noblest in the range of philanthropy. It befits a free people, like ourselves, to impart the blessings of civil and religious liberty to our fellow men. We seem to be exalted for this end. It is identified with our true glory thus to consecrate the influence which God has bestowed. The very magnitude of the scheme betokens its accomplishment. It fills the large heart of philanthropy, thus to grasp a continent in its blessed purpose. Let no one be appalled by the difficulties and dangers of the enterprise. That it will cost time and means, and trials of faith and patience, is true; and so it should; nothing valuable was ever gained without these. Let us, then, relying on the divine blessing, devote of our time and talents, and prayers, to the sublime endeavour. The men to take hold of the wheels, to labour at the oars, to toil and die on the field, are ready for their work. To the christian and patriot we look for the patronage that will uphold them.

In accordance with the plan of the American society for the promotion of education in Africa, the following gentlemen have been appointed a board of trustees.

New York.—Benjamin F. Butler, George W. Strong, Hugh Maxwell, Gulian C. Verplanck, Walter Lowrie, James Lenox, G. P. Disosway, James Boorman, Anson G. Phelps, Israel Corse, George Douglas, Rev. James Milnor D. D. Rev. Thomas De Witt, D. D. Rev. Alexander Proudfit, D. D. Rev. Spencer H. Cone.

New Jersey.—Theodore Frelinghuysen, S. L. Southard, Caleb H. Shipman, Rev. John Breckenridge.

Albany.—Rev. Courtlandt Van Rensselaer.

Virginia.—Charles Fenton Mercer, William Maxwell, John H. Cocke.

Pennsylvania.—Gerard Ralston, Matthew Newkirk, Rev. Rufus Babcock, D. D. Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D. D. William Short, W. Kirkpatrick.

Boston.—Henry Edwards, Daniel Noyes.

Dedham, Mass.—Rev. Ebenezer Burgess, D. D.

Mobile.—Judge Hitchcock.

Connecticut.—Rev. Wilbur Fisk, D. D.—Rev. Thomas H. Gallaudet.

New Orleans.—I. McDonough.

Philadelphia.—E. Cresson.

President—William H. Crosby, of New York.

Corresponding secretary.—Reuben D. Turner, Virginia.

It is designed to secure to this board, by an act of incorporation, the power to hold permanent funds, the income of which to be applied to the support of the higher institutions of learning in Africa, of which they will have the exclusive control; and they will also be competent to fill their own vacancies, and thus perpetuate their responsible existence through future years. The elementary and preparatory departments of education, which will be sustained by the annual contributions of the friends of Africa, will be under the immediate direction of the society itself. Believing that the plan and objects of this society will commend themselves, both to your judgment and your sympathies, I have taken the liberty, in its name, most respectfully to address to you this communication, to ask your aid in support of its objects.

Your answer may be directed to the subscriber, at the office of the American society for the promotion of education in Africa, No. 113 Nassau street, New York.

Most respectfully yours,

Reuben D. Turner,

Cor. Sec. and Gen'l. Agt. Am. So. &c.

Important Project.—The march of the colonization cause at the South is onward—The corresponding secretary of the New York Colonization Society has received a letter from the Rev. R. S. Finley, agent of the State Colonization Society of Mississippi, dated Natchez, February 22, 1837, informing him that the societies in the states of Mississippi and Louisiana, have each resolved to establish a colony on the coast of Africa, and that each society will expend 20,000 dollars a year for five years, in sustaining them: that the Mississippi Society has already purchased a suitable territory for their object, and it is supposed that a purchase has also been made for the Louisiana Society. Mr. Finley mentions. we 'have nearly secured the sum of $20,000 for the first year, in the Mississippi Society, and are confident of raising the same sum in Louisiana, as the enterprise is popular in both states. We are preparing to send out an expedition to Africa soon after the first of April, and Mr. Blodget, a gentleman of piety and learning, is appointed physician and surgeon, and there are about fifty emigrants at or near Natchez, waiting for a passage to Liberia.—We also propose to open a large farm for the purpose of raising bread stuffs for the colony, and to develope the agricultural resources of the country, by cultivating, on an extensive scale, cotton, sugar, coffee, &c. We also propose to purchase one or more vessels, to run constantly between New Orleans and the colony. I have made these suggestions, supposing that your Society might co-operate with us in some of the objects. If New York and Pennsylvania will purchase one vessel and we another, you might make arrangements to obtain emigrants from Tennessee, Kentucky, &c., and the vessel might sail for Africa from New-Orleans, and return by the way of New-York.—*Commercial Adv.*

The corresponding secretary of the New York colonization society, acknowledges with pleasure the receipt of $50 from the ladies of the Baptist church in Oliver street, to constitute their pastor, the Rev. Spencer H. Cone, a manager for life; and also $50 from the ladies of the Associate Church in Grand st., to constitute their pastor, the Rev. Andrew Stark, a manager for life; and also $50 from a few ladies in St. Paul's church, to constitute their pastor, the Rev. John F. Schroeder, a manager for life; and also $50 from the ladies of the Baptist Church in Mulberry st., to constitute their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Maclay, a manager for life. In addition to all these receipts, the corresponding secretary has just received a second donation of $400 from the same liberal hand which gave him a contribution of $300 some months since.—We wish we were at liberty to mention the name of the donor; but he is one of those true philanthropists who allows not the left hand to know what is done by the right.—N. Y. Com. Advertiser.

(From the Baltimore American.)

AMERICAN COLONIES IN AFRICA.

Our readers will peruse with much gratification the annexed highly interesting official communication to the secretary of the navy from Capt. Joseph I. Nicholson of the navy. The author of the letter has evidently taken great pains to inform himself in reference to the condition, moral and physical, of the various American colonies in Africa, and makes highly judicious remarks upon the results of his investigations. To the people of Maryland the very prosperous situation of the colony at Cape Palmas must afford heartfelt gratification, presenting as it does strong inducements for emigrants to become citizens of that thriving community. The labours of the Rev. Mr. Wilson, who has a school of native children and adults, one hundred in number, promise the most beneficial consequences to the African race. It appears that among the pupils of this gentleman are several children of native kings, who will, ere long, exercise kingly authority, and be thus enabled to extend among their subjects the blessings of christianity. The judiciousness of the course pursued by the Maryland colonists in devoting themselves to agriculture, instead of entering into traffic with the natives, has manifested itself in the happy state of the settlement, and the promise of permanent prosperity which they enjoy.

U. S. Ship, Potomac,
Rio de Janeiro, 8th January, 1837.

Sir—I have the honour to inform you that we arrived at Cape Mesurado on the 20th November, whence she sailed for Bassa Cove on the 27th, and to make the following report of its state as far as I could ascertain from my own observation, the reports of the authorities at Monrovia, and the information derived from the officers of the ship.

Its elevated location was selected with judgment; it may be effectually fortified, and its anchorage is good. The population is about one thousand, and their exports amount to seventy-five thousand dollars annually, in camwood, ivory, palm oil, and a few hides; but at present their trade is much depressed in consequence of the wars among the natives.—The forests abound with medicinal herbs, gums, and valuable wood of almost every description. About seventy-five vessels touch here annually, of which one third are Americans. Their agriculture appears to have been neglected, owing they say to the pecuniary embarrassment of the people and the want of cattle and agricultural instruments. Cotton, coffee, and the richest sugar cane are indigenous to the soil, and with encouragement and industry, could be produced in any quantities. The salubrity of the climate is found to increase as the forests are cleared away. Vegetables of many kinds may be raised in plenty; and hogs, sheep, goats and cows appear to thrive. Fish in abundance are found in the streams, and it is generally admitted that a very comfortable subsistence can be procured by any man of moderately industrious habits. But they complain that the waste of capital prevents the farmer from *raising a surplus.*

The slave trade within the three last years has seriously injured the colony. Not only has it diverted the industry of the natives, but it has effectually cut off the communication with the interior. The war parties being in the habit of plundering and kidnapping for slaves all whom they meet, whether parties to the war or not, the daring of the slaver increases with the demand for slaves, which could not of late be supplied by the usual means.—The slavers have therefore excited the natives to war, by the distribution of their goods, an appeal to their avarice which is but too successful, and within a year four slave factories have been established almost within sight of the colony. But the colonists say they are deterred from marching to destroy them, by the certain revenge to which their helpless trading vessels are exposed. If the slavers were kept from the coast, which, I am informed, could be effected, if the colony possessed an armed vessel, to be manned by their own people, this cause of four-fifths of the wars would be removed, and the natives would return to their peaceful pursuits.

It is complained, that many of the emigrants are forced to expend what little capital they may have in erecting their buildings, &c., and to resort to petty traffic for immediate subsistence, to the neglect of slower returns of agriculture; and that the drain of the inhabitants of Monrovia to form the other settlements, has been a serious obstacle to its growth. Some of the officers who have been here before tell me that it evidently is not as prosperous as it was at their former visit, which I would ascribe to the neglect of agriculture for the pursuit of trade, which being now cut off by the native wars, has left them without resources. The traders, too, who arrive upon the coast, fearing no competition, and knowing their necessities, demand exorbitant profits, which are again increased by the traders on shore before the articles reach the consumers, whose earnings are thus absorbed.—It appears to me that it would be advantageous to all parties, if the society should place their public store on such a footing as would enable the agents to issue at a moderate profit to the colonists, the groceries and clothing for which they now pay so dearly, without, however, prejudicing the interests of the fair trader.—The monopolist could not then take advantage of their necessities, and their earnings might be saved to them for the improvement of their lands.

It is important that a greater proportion of farmers be sent among them, for on the product of the soil by their own labour must the colonists mainly depend.

Doctor Dodd, the surgeon of this ship, who ascended the river, informs me, that about four miles from Monrovia, on the Stockton river, is the settlement of New Georgia; it contains about two hundred and fifty inhabitants, recaptured Africans, who are devoted to agriculture, which amply repays the labourer. This settlement *is certainly in advance of the others* in agriculture. Caldwell, another of the settlements, is about three miles above New Georgia; it extends about four miles along the south bank of the St. Paul river, and contains about four hundred inhabitants. The soil is good, and in a tolerably good state of cultivation. Thirteen miles above Caldwell is Millsburg, finely located on the same river, and flourishing; the soil fertile, and the climate more salubrious than the others; it contains about three hundred inhabitants.

The schools at the settlements are generally well attended; the children make very good progress. The morals of the upper settlement generally stand fair. We arrived at Bassa Cove on the 29th of November, and I have great pleasure in saying, that those who visited the shore were agreeably surprised at the progress that had been made in clearing away the land, laying out streets, draining a fine piece of low grounds, and building houses, as well for the actual settlers, as for those who are expected. The present inhabitants are most of the re-united remains of the first settlers, whose defenceless situation had been taken advantage of by the natives, to pillage and burn their houses, and murder a number of men, women, and children. The commissioner, Mr. Buchanan, deserves more praise than my report may confer upon him, for having re-established them. Eleven months have not elapsed since Bassa Cove was a dense wilderness, and now exhibits the evidence of a thriving village, and of an industrious people, obedient to the laws, and understanding their interest in maintaining them.

The schools appear to be well attended by the adults and children, of which the necessary good effects will be felt in their moral influence over the natives. The town is beautifully situated on the southern side of the St. John river, at its mouth, about fifty-five miles S. E. of Monrovia, enjoying the sea-breeze every day. The Benson river is in its rear, abounding with fish and oysters, and the land in the neighbourhood is favourable to agriculture. The population is about one hundred and fifty souls, occupying forty dwelling houses,