Bec. 2nd. All judges, magistrates, and other officers now concerned in the administration of jus. tice in the Commonwealth of Libera, and all other existing civil and military officers theiren, shall continue to hold and discharge their respective offices in the name and by the authority of the Republic, unti others shall be appointed and commissioned in their stead pursuant to this Constitution.

Sec. 3d. All towns and municipal corporations | Colonization Society and this Republic. within this Republic, constituted under the laws of the Commonwealth of Liberia, shall retain their existing organizations and privileges, and the res pective officers thereof shall remain in office and act under the authority of this Republic, in the same manner and with the like powers as they now poss-

eas under the laws of said Commonwealth. Sec. 4th The first election of President, Vice President Senators and Rrepresentatives shall be held on the first Tuesday in October in the year o our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-seven in the some manner as elections of members of the Council are chosen in the Commonwealth of Liberia, ond the votes shall be certified and returned to the Co louish Secretary, and the result of the election shall be ascertained, posted and notified by him as is now

by law provided in case of such members of Council Sec. 5th. All other elections of President, Vica President, Senators, and Representatives, shall be held in the respective towns on the first Tuesday in May in every two years, to be held and regulated in such manner as the Legislature may by law prescribe. The returns of votes shell be made to the Secretary of State who, shall open I the same, and for hwith issue notices of the election to the persons apparently so elected Senttors and Representatives; and all such returns shall be by him laid before the Legislature at its next ensuing session, together with a list of the names of the persons who appear by such returns to have been duly elected senators and representatives; and the persons appearing by said returns to be duly elected shall proceed to organise themselves ac ordingly as the Senate and House of Riepresentatives. The votes for President shall be soried, counted, and declared by the House of Representatives. And if no person shall appear to have a majority of such votes. the Senature, and Representatives present, shall in convention, by joint ballot, elect from among the persons having the three highest numbers of votes, a person to act as President for the ensuing term.

Sec. 6th. The Legislature shall assemble once at least in every year, and such meeting shall be on the aret Monday in January, unless a different day shall be appointed by law.

Sec. 7. Every legislator and other officer appointed under this constitution, shall before he enters anon the duties of his flice, take and subscribe a solemn oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of this Republic, and faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of such office. The presiding officer of the Seaste shall administer such oath affirmation to the President, in convention of houses; and the President shall administer the same to the Vice President, to the Senators, and to the one, and the government new calle to 19 supple. , sve. Repeantatives in like manner. It the Presi- ry citizen was is at all interested or constant for the dent is unable to attend, the Chief Justice of the selev, and future prosperity of this our orde hans Supreme Court, may administer the oath or affirmation to him, at any place, and also to the Vice President, Senators and Representatives, in convengion. Other officers may take such outh or affirmati n before the President, Chief Justice, or any other person who may be designated by law.

Sec. 8. All elections of public officers shall be made by a majority of the voter, except in cases otherwise regula ed by I e constitution or by law. Sec. 9. Offices created by this Constitution which the present circumstances of the Republic do not require that they shall be filled, shall not be filled until

the Legislature shall deem it necessary. Sec. 10. The property of which a woman may be possessed at the time of her marriage and also that of which she may afterwards become possessed. otherwise than by her husband shall not be held responsible for his debts; whether contracted before

or after merriage. Nor shall the property thus intended to be secured to the woman be alienated othervise than by her tree and voluntary consent, and such alienation may be made by nor citier by sale devise or other

Ner. 11. In all cases in which estates are inselvent the widow shall be entitled to one third of the real estate during her natural life, and to one third of all the personal estate, which she shall hold in her own right, subject to allemation by her, by ce-VIDO or Milerwise.

Ser. 12.11. No person shall be entitled to hold real estate in this Republic uniers he be a citizen tof the same. Nevermeers this article shall not be construed to apply to Colorization, Massionary, Edu- | sembled, invested with authority forforming a cational, or other benevolent institutions, so long as new government, relying upon the aid and Governor, who is also a colonist, for the ap, a- J. N. LEWIS, the property or estate is applied to its legitimate

Colonies being to provide a nome for the dispersed of the people of the Com a manach, publish complaint of crude legislation, nor of misman- FLIAH JOHNSON, and oppressed children of Africe, and to regenerate and dec are the sail Comm naves the sail dec are the sail Comm naves the sail dec are the sail Comm naves the sail dec are the sail dec are the sail comments. ande Lenten this benighted continent, more but sover IGN, and INDEP OF TEATS, by the hourd persons of Color shall be admitted to citizenship in | quin and stile of the Republic of L Beart. this Republic. Sec. 14th. The purchase of an; land by any citi-

zen or citizens from the aborigmes of this country for his or their own use, or for the benefit of a hore, ic have felt themselves called upon to assume. as estate or estates it fee simile, shall be considered null and void to all intenta and purposes.

husbandry being a cherished object of this government, it sha't be the duty of the President to ap point in each county some discreet person whose duty tonail he to make regular and periodical tours ateation of the natives to these wholesome branches be done make provision for these purposes by the appropriation of money.

the Republic: nevertheless, the Logislature shall make no law prohibiting emigration. And it shell be among the first duties of the Legislature, to take measures t arrange the future relations between the American

per more more and a series and a series

Sec, 17. This constitution may be altered whenever two thirds of both branches of the legis ature shall deem it necessary. In which case the alterations or amendments, shall first be considered and approved by the legislature, by the concurrence of two thirds of the members of each branch, and afterwards by them submitted to the people, and adopted by two thirds of all the electors at the next biennial meeting for the election of senators and representatives.

Done in CONVENTION, at Monrovia in the Court y of Montserrado, by the unanimous consent of the people of the Commonwealth of Taberia, this to my sixth day of July, in the year of Our Lord One Truesand Eight office. Hundred and Forty-seven, and f the Reryatio the First. In witness whereof we have herete set our

S. BENEDICT, President. J. N. LEWIS, H. TEAGE, BEVERLY R. WILSON. ELIJAH JOHNSON, J. B. GRIPON. A. W. GARDVER. AMOS HERRIVA. EPHRAIN PIPLER R. E. MURRAY, J. W. PROUT,

> Secretary of Convention. Monrovia, July 29th, 1817.

M unt serrado

County.

County.

Grand Bassa

{ Coun'y of Sinon.

Having finished our labors, we now have the honor of submitting to your consider mos, through the Governor, that Commingues which in our opinor will best suit the peculiar circumstances of the people of this infam Republic. That our labore will met the tule approbation of every individual citizen, is scarcely to expected; we trust however, that a large majority of our fellow eluzens, will approve our doings, and adopt

the constitution herewith submitted. In our deliberations, we endeavored to keep our minds steadily fixed upon the great objects of e.v.l governmen', and have done what we conceived to be best for the general interest of this rising Republic We endeavoied earefully to arrange every subject that might possibly arise, calculated to disturb in the least the friendly feeling which now so happily su's sis he'ween different counties of this Republic. We felt deeply the of the soil importance and magnitude of the work auth nived to our hands, and have done the very best we could in or-

der to afford general sa refection. In view of the peculiarity of our circumstaness, the new pisition we have essumed, is tridend a zigantie Kiewing hivever, that our estat is just, we fee! encourage i, and b linve that under God, by a cloudy prisevirance, we shall fully succeed In publishing to the world our Independence, we have though proper to accommand the factorent. with a declaration of the causes which in luc-d us to leave the land of our na ivity and to them en themenis on this coust, and alar an appeal to he sympathies of all civilized mations, soliciting their air and protection and especially that hey would, no withstanding our

preuliar circumstances, speedily recognize our Indepen-And that the Flag of this Republic at no distant day in my he seen fleeting upon every breeze, and in every

It is our earnest desire that the affairs of this governmen' may be so conducted as to merit the approbation of all chris endo n, and revore to Africa her long lost glory, and that Liberia under the guidance of heaven may continue a happy asylum for our long oppressed race, and a blessing to the benighted and degraded natives of this vast peninsula. To secure which is our ardent with and prayer.

With great respect we have the honor of being your obedient and humble servante.

By the unanimous order? of the convention SAMUEL BENEDICT,

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

We the representatives of he people of the Commonweal hof Liberta, in Cavention Asprotection of h. Great Arniter of human e- rent purpose of the ability of the people H. TEAGE. Sec. 13 The great object of forming these venus, do hereby, in he mame and on b half to conduct the efficies of government, and no BEVERLY R WILSON, tWhile announcing to the nations of the world

the new position which the people of this Repun-

courtesy to their opinion seems to demand a brief accompanying statement of in courses which in-Sec. 15th. The improvement of the native tribes | duced then, first to expatrate beneelves from and their advincement in the arts of agriculture and the lind of their nativity and to torin settlements on this harbarous coast, and n woorgan ze their and left the people to the government of theme gov rument by the assumption of a sovereign colves. and in tep n lent character Therefore we resthrough the country for the purpose of calling the pectfully ask their attention to the following facts, and in fact, a free, severeign and the Convention, as the maignes of the Republic of industry, and of instructing them in the same; unalienable rights; among these are life, liberty, and powers, and functions of government. and the legislature shall, as soon as can conveniently and the right to acquire, possess, enjoy and de- In assuming the mementous responsibilities of fend property. By the practice and consent of the position they have taken, the people of this alturnately displayed longitudinally. In the upmen in all ages, some system or form of gov- Republic, feel justified by the necessition of the per angle of the flag, next to the spear, a square

Sec. 16th The existing regulations of the American Jernment is proven to be recessary to exercise, Colonization Society, in the Comm inwealth, relative to panjoy and secure these rights; and every people emigrants, shall remain the same in the Republic. has a right to institute a government and to cratton of the civilzed world. choose and adopt that system or form of it, which in their opinion will most effectually ac- tion, nor the tool of avaricious speculation. complish these objects, and secure their happiness, which does not interfere with the just brought us to these shores; nor do we believe so rights of others. The right therefore to insti- sordid a motive entered into the high considinte government, and to all the powers necessary eration of those who aided us in providing to conduct it, is, an indienable right, and cannot

be resisted without the grossest injustice. We the people of the Republic of Liberia were originally the inhabitants of the United States of North America.

In some parts of that country, we were harren by law from all the rights and privileges of men-in other parts, public sentiment, more powerful toan law, frowned us down.

We were every where shut out from all civil We were excluded from all participation

he government. W. wer taxed without our consent.

We were compelled to contribute to the resources of a country, which gave us no protec- vancement in all that adorns and dignifies men.

We were made a separate and distinct class, and against us every avenue to improvement was effectually closed. Strangers from all lands | the love of an honorable tame, to kindle withof a co'or different from ours, were preferred in them, the flame of a lofty philanthropy, and to We uttered our complaints, but they were un-

attended to, or only met by alledging the peculiar institutions of the country.

All hope of a fivorable change in our country was thus whativ extragaished in our bosem, and we looked with anxiety abroad for some asylum from the deep degradation.

The Western coast of Africa was the place selected by American benevolence and philanthropy, for our future home. Removed beyond le those influences which depressed us in our native land, it was hoped we would be enabled to enjoy those rights and privileges, and exer cise and improve those ficulties, which the Goi of nature was given us in common with the rest

Unter the auspices of the American Colonization Society, we established ourselves here, door for thousands, who are n. w looking with on land acquired by purchase from the Lords an auxious eye for some land of rest.

In an original compact with this Society, we, for important reasons delegated to it certain po-'itical powers; while this institution stipul iteal that whenever the people should become copable of conducting the government, or whenever the people should desire it, this institution w mid resign the delegated power, peaceable with traw its supervision, and I ave the people

to the givennent of hemselves. Under the auspices and guidance of this institution, which has nobly and in perioc faith redecined its pledges to the people, we have grown

From time to time, our number has been increased by migration from America, and by accessions from native tribes; and from time time, an circums'ances required it, we have extended our borders by acquisition of land by umorable purchase from the natives of the coun-

As our territory has extended, and our population incressed, our commerce his also increased. The fligs of most of he civilized nations of the earth fluit in our barbors, and their merchants are op-uing an honorable and profitable trade. Until recently, these visits have been of a uniformly harmonious character, but as they have become more frequent, and to more num-"rous points of our extending coast, questions | Done in CONVENTION, at Monrovia in the

and active part in the administration of the wherof we have hereto set our names governm n', except in the appointment of the S BENEDICT, President. In view of these facts, this institution, the | OHN, DAY,

American Comm zettion Secrety, with that good taith which has uniformly marked all its deal AMOS HERRING. ing- with us. did, by a set of resolutions in Jan- EPHRAIM TITTLER. part, in the Year of Ou Lord One Thousand R. E MURRAY. Eight Hon red and Forty Six, diesolve all political connexion with the people of this Republic. return the power with which it was delegated.

The people of the Republic of Liberia then. We recognise in a'l mon certian natura and independent State, possessed of all the gr ghts, of Liberia, and ordered to be employed to mark

core, and with this conviction they throw them. selves with confidence upon the condid consid:

Liberia is not the offenring of grapping embi-

No desire for territorial aggrandizement

Libert is an asylum from the most grinding

oppression. In coming to the shores of Africa, we indulged le- the pleasing hope that we would be permitted to exercise and improve those faculties, which impart to man his dignity—to nourish in our hearts the flame of honorble embition, to cherish and indulge those aspirations, which a Benis. cent Creator hath implanted in every human heart, and to evince to all who despise, ridicule and oppress our race, that we possess with them a common nature, are with them susceptible of equal refinement, and capable of equal ad-

We were animited with the hope, that here we should be at liberty to train up our children in the way they should go-to inspire them with form strong within them, the principles of humanity, virtue and religion

Among the strongest motives to leave our native land-to abandon forever the scenes of our childhood, and to sever the most endeared connexions, was the desire for a retreat where, tree from the agitations of fear and molestation we could, in composure and security approach in worship the God of our Fathern.

Thus far our highest hopes have been realiz-

Liberia is already the happy home of thou. sands, who were once the doomed victims of oppression, and if left unmo ested to go on with ner natural and spontan ous growth; if her movements be left free from he paralysing intrigues of jealous ambition and unscrupulous as carice, she will throw open a wider and a wider

Our courts of justice are open equally o the stranger and the citizen for the ridress of grieve ances, for the remedy of injuries, and for the punhment of crime.

Our numerous and well attended schools orest on efferts, and our desire for the imprivement of our children

Our churches for the wors in of our Crestur. every where to be seen, bear testimone to our niets, and to our zeknow edgement of His P. ov.

The netive African howing down with no before the alter of the living Gid, declares that tion us, feeble as we are, the light of chrisi unit has gone forth, while upon that curse of curses, the slave trade, a deadly blight has fallen as far as our influence extende

Therefore in the name of humanity, and virtue and religion-in the name of the Great God. our common Creator, and our con mon Judge, we appeal to the nations of christendom, and enraestly and respectfully ask of them, that they will regard us with the or mpathy and friendly consideration to which the peculiarities of our condition en itle us, and to extend to us that comity which marks the friendly intercourse of civilized and independent communi-

have armen, which it is supposed can be adjust County of Montserade, by the unanimous consent ted only by agreement between severeign pow- of the people of the Commonwath of Lberia, this twenty sixth day of July, in the year of Our Fir years past, the Anerican Colonization | Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Society has virtuilly withdrawn from all direct seven, and of the Republic the First In witness

M intserrado

Gran B sea

County.

County.

W GARDNER.

¿ Coun'y of Since,

J. W. PROUT.

Secretary of Convention. For the Liberia Heraid.

The following Fing and Seal were adopted by

Flag: six red stripes with five white stripes

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers B. Liberia Herald

February 1842(XI,4)--February 18,1857(n.s. VII,4)

1847