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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society.

In presenting to the State Colonization Society, their sixth annual report, the Board of Managers feel themselves called upon to acknowledge with humble gratitude the favour, which, during the past year, has been vouchsafed to their labours by a wise, merciful, and over-ruling Providence. In the brief period of the Society's existence, this has ever been the case; but never has it been so evident as in the last twelve months, not only in the situation of the colony, but also in the state of feeling in Maryland, among those who are the immediate objects of the State Society's exertions.

Since the date of the last annual report, the Board have lost two of their most valuable members. Peter Hoffman, Esq. died in Baltimore, on the 12th day of May last, and Charles Carrol Harper, Esq., died in France, near Paris, on the 23d of June, following. Both of these gentlemen were Vice-Presidents of the Society, and were also among its founders. They were among the earliest friends of colonization in this State, and the records of the American Colonization Society shew how diligent they were in the prosecution of the interests of that institution, before the State Society was formed. Mr. Hoffman, and his two brothers, one the first president of the Society, the other its treasurer, all now dead, were surpassed by none in the zeal and great liberality which they manifested on all occasions in the cause of colonization. Mr. Harper, inheriting from his father his attachment to the scheme, devoted to it talents of the highest order, and as its advocate before the people, and as its supporter in the legislature of the State, rendered to it the most important services.

During the year just ended, the Board of Managers have despatched their eighth and ninth expeditions to Maryland in Liberia. The brig Baltimore sailed on the 17th May, with fifty-five emigrants, and on the 28th November, the Niobe, which had carried out the fall expedition of 1836, sailed on her second voyage with eighty-five emigrants more, making one hundred and forty persons added to the population of the colony, since the date of the last annual report.

A part of the expense of the spring expedition by the Baltimore, was borne out of the funds received from Mrs. Emily H. Tubman, the widow of Richard Tubman, Esq., formerly of Maryland, but at the time of his decease a resident of Georgia. Mr. Tubman had, by his last will left his slaves free, on condition they would emigrate to Africa, and bequeathed the sum of ten thousand dollars for their removal to and settlement in that country. Mrs. Tubman, desirous of carrying into effect the provisions of her husband's will, made application to the Board of Managers to receive her people into the colony of Maryland in Liberia, offering to pay their passage, and to give them such outfits as the Board of Managers might suggest as necessary and proper. It being found upon inquiry, that the proposed emigrants were of an exemplary character, honest, sober and industrious, all of them accustomed to agriculture, and most of the males acquainted with some trade, and the Board being especially moved by the consideration, that experienced cotton planters would be of the greatest service in enabling the Board to carry out their design of making that article a chief staple of the colony—the wishes of Mrs. Tubman were acceded to, and her people were sent by her to Baltimore, in time to join the Maryland emigrants of the spring expedition. On their arrival here, their appearance fully corroborated all that had been reported of them; and the Board hazard little in saying, that when the Baltimore sailed, it carried out morally and physically one of the best and strongest, as well as the most thoroughly furnished expeditions, that had yet left the United States for Africa. After ample provision had been made for the wants of Mrs. Tubman's servants, as well as their passage to Africa paid, there still remained a large sum unexpended of their late master's bounty, which is now in the hands of his executors to be appropriated in such manner, as future intelligence from Africa may shew to be best calculated to fulfil the intentions of the noble individual from whom it was derived.

The Board would do injustice to their feelings did they not here express the high satisfaction which they have derived from their intercourse with Mrs. Tubman, and their admiration of the excellent and most praiseworthy spirit that she has manifested, in executing a will which deprived her of so large and valuable a property as the servants in question.

The Board make this statement thus prominent in their report, that they may correct an impression which has prevailed among some of their friends, that the funds raised in Maryland, and applicable by the constitution of the society and the laws under which they are derived, to the use, exclusively, of emigrants from the State, had been appropriated to the removal of the emigrants from Georgia. Every cent expended for this purpose,

even to the freight of the goods sent out for the use of Mrs. Tubman's servants in Africa, has been paid in the most liberal manner, by Mr. Tubman's executors.

The emigrants who sailed in the fall expedition were all from Maryland, and were in nearly every instance persons of excellent character, and well considered in the neighbourhoods from which they removed. The greater part of them were agriculturists—some few were mechanics—all had been accustomed to labour, all embarked with a full conviction that their happiness and prosperity in Africa could only be secured by the exercise of a resolute and untiring spirit, and a willingness to undergo the toils which are necessarily incident to the condition of the early settlers in a new country. It has heretofore been the constant aim of the Board, to send such persons only in their expeditions, as would add to the effective physical force of the colony—to send more males than females, and to send none who could not either take care of and provide for themselves, or who were not in company with others who would prevent them from being a dead weight on the community. This policy the Board have conceived to be the true one in the early periods of the colony. It may slightly retard the very rapid increase of population there at first, but the community, formed with the care thus taken, advances with a steadier and firmer step now, and will, hereafter, possess a strength which will enable it to receive without injury to it, that indiscriminate emigration which at present would but serve to retard its progress, if not cripple it past cure. The well-known maxim of *festina lente*, is applicable to nothing more than to colonization in its incipient stages. Besides the considerations thus suggested in respect to the selection of emigrants, the Board have endeavoured to obtain those who were accustomed to agricultural pursuits in this country; for, if the experience of the Board has proved any one thing more incontrovertibly than another, it has been the wisdom of the policy with which they commenced their operations, and which, keeping general native trade in the hands of the society, made agriculture the main, and indeed, except in the case of mechanics, the sole occupation of the colonists. Collisions with the natives incident to a trade with them are thus avoided by the early settlers; and they are also saved from the demoralizing influences which a petty native traffic has hitherto in other situations invariably exercised.

In the reports heretofore made by the Board of Managers, reference has been had to the existence of a feeling among the coloured people of the state, adverse to emigration to Africa, and the agents of the Society, in their attempts to procure emigrants, have been always annoyed by an opposition, the source of which, it was difficult to ascertain. Upon arriving in a neighbourhood to be visited, the agent would address himself at once to the free coloured people, and explain to them the design of colonization, and make statements in regard to Africa, its climate, soil and productions, and the privileges granted by the Society to those who emigrated to the colony. In most instances, the persons thus addressed, would hear with kindness what was told them by the agent; many would express a willingness to emigrate, and some would at once, put their names upon the list for the next expedition. In this situation would the agent leave them, and after completing his round, would return to assist those whom he had first visited and who proposed to emigrate, in making their preparations. But in every instance, he would find that an antagonist had been at work in his absence, and that the minds of the coloured people had in the interval been filled with ideas, which it was difficult, if not impossible to eradicate in the time that he could devote to the purpose; that calumnies and falsehoods, prepared with art, and suited to the prejudices of those for whom they were intended, had been uttered by persons, whom it was impossible to identify, and who could only be traced in their course, by the mischief they had done. It seemed at last to the agent, and was so reported by him to the Board of Managers, as though abolition, instead of seeking openly to make converts in Maryland, had endeavoured to promote its views by watching, following and counteracting the agents of the Colonization Society. This state of things however, has been gradually changing, and the last expedition of eighty-five persons, all from Maryland, gives evidence of a spirit among the people of colour, that promises as large and constant an emigration, as the means placed at the disposal of the managers of the state fund, with such as can be obtained from individual benevolence, will enable the State Society to meet. The number of applications for passage to the colony, in the beginning of November, exceeded indeed both the means of transportation, and the number which the Board thought it politic to send. This number was limited to one hundred—the fifteen who did not join the expedition, were detained by causes beyond their control; but are now engaged in perfecting the arrangements, which will enable them to go out in the spring. From the intelligence in the possession of the Board, they have every reason to

believe, that should they otherwise be in a condition to send a vessel to Cape Palmas in May next, they will have as many emigrants as it will be proper to take; many of them too, persons who have accumulated property in this State, and who will add not only their means, but their excellent moral character, to the colony. The Board indeed trust that the violence of opposition from those, most interested in their labours has so far diminished, as to offer no serious obstacle, hereafter, to the prosecution of the plan of colonization from the State.

In their previous reports, the Board of Managers have intimated what it may not be out of place here to repeat, the views entertained by them of the ultimate operation of the colonization plan, so far as it is connected with the removal from this country, of the people of colour, and such as may be made free, with their own consent, to Africa. Did the Board think, for one instant, that this was to be accomplished only by the contributions of states, societies or individuals, to be appropriated to the chartering of vessels, and the procuring of emigrants, they would at once abandon the cause as utterly and irretrievably desperate. But this is not the opinion entertained by them.

The Board of Managers think that Colonization never can be accomplished until it shall become evident to the coloured people of this country, that it is their interest to emigrate to Africa. The Board think that when this interest shall become apparent to them, the work will go forward independent, entirely of pecuniary assistance from societies or individuals here. The emigration that takes place from Europe to America is now treble in numbers to the increase of the whole coloured population of the United States. These emigrants come here with their own means; there are no societies to pay their passages; their removal costs nothing to the country from which they come. They come, because it is more attractive to come to America than to stay at home. They come, because they think it their interest to come; and having determined to come, they find the means themselves of doing so. The Board of Managers believe that it should be the main object of Colonization to create the same state of feeling among the free coloured people of this country in regard to Africa, that pervades the bosoms of the foreigners who annually seek our shores. And the Board think that Colonization Societies, State, and individual patronage, are competent to this, although wholly inadequate to furnish the sum necessary to pay for the removal of the entire coloured population. A sum comparatively small is sufficient to found a colony, and to plant there a prosperous and happy population of some thousand souls; the news of whose happiness and prosperity, reaching this country, will entice to the home of their fathers, thousands on thousands of those upon whom the intelligence will produce the same effect as the news of the high price of labour here, and the ease with which land is acquired, produces upon the European emigrant.—When it is considered too, how much stronger are the inducements for the coloured man to remove from America, where every avenue to political importance is closed to him, than the inducements acting upon the European to leave a country where all those avenues are open, it can hardly be doubted, that when the colonies in Africa increase in strength and importance, the tide of emigration from this country will set in that direction, even more strongly than that tide now sets from Europe to America.

Entertaining these views, the Board of Managers cannot too highly applaud the course pursued by the Managers of the state fund, whose aim, now fully accomplished, has been to prepare in the best manner, a spot on the coast of Africa, to which, without restriction, that emigration from the State can take place which will fulfil the wise purposes indicated by the State's legislation on the subject.

In the spring expedition, by the Baltimore, the Protestant Episcopal Church sent out three missionaries, the Rev. Mr. Payne and wife, and the Rev. Mr. Minor. There are now three missionary establishments at Cape Palmas. The Presbyterian mission, consisting of the Rev. J. L. Wilson and wife, a printer, and several coloured teachers. The Protestant Episcopal mission, consisting of the above named persons, and Dr. Savage, who is at the head of the establishment; and the Methodist Episcopal mission in charge of the Rev. Mr. Burns. The Methodist Protestant Church have an agent in the colony, in view of preparing for a missionary establishment by that denomination of christians. The missionary force collected at Cape Palmas, is stronger, it is believed, than at any other point on the coast, and makes the settlement, in the words of a recent visitor, the 'Serampore of Africa.' The value of the missionary settlements, in and about the Colony, is duly appreciated by the Board; the influence exercised by them, both upon the natives and the emigrants, is highly beneficial, and has upon more than one occasion, prevented difficulty between the two. The Board will lose no opportunity of promoting the increase of missionary labour in their settlements, deeming the obligations conferred upon the

society, a full equivalent for any aid which the Society or its agents may have it in their power to bestow.

The Society are fully aware that temperance and agriculture are two subjects to which in the government of the Colony the attention of the Board has been most steadily and anxiously directed. Their laws in regard to temperance, are it is believed, most strictly observed, and, as was evident in a recent case that came to the knowledge of the Board, are sustained by the strong good feeling of the community. The Board has been gratified to find the ease with which this most important principle has been established. With but limited influence in Africa, the agents of the Society there, have found it impossible wholly, to prevent rum being used among the surrounding natives, as a part of the trade carried on with them by other than the colonists: but the Board have every reason to believe, that before long, and as their settlement extends, the temperance principle will come to be recognized as a part of the fundamental law, not only by the emigrants, but by the natives around.

The agricultural operations of the colonists, are going forward with as much diligence as could be expected. On the occasion of the visit of the Potomac frigate, she was fully supplied with vegetables and fresh provisions by the colonists. The Board let no opportunity pass of urging upon the agent the necessity of keeping the surveys ahead of the emigration, of removing the new comers on their arrival, at once to the farm lands, and of aiding them in getting their lots under cultivation and their houses built upon them. The Baltimore carried out funds to purchase jacks and jennies at the Cape de Verdes, where eleven were bought and safely landed at Cape Palmas. There are already several horses in the settlement, with every prospect of an increasing and valuable stock. The native oxen have been broken to the yoke, and though small in size, have answered the purposes of agriculture and draft, better than was expected. A full supply of ploughs has been sent out; also, cart-wheels, and a mill to be turned by horse power. Indeed nothing has been omitted, which in the opinion of the Board might foster and promote an agricultural spirit among the colonists.

By the fall expedition the Board transmitted to the colony a code of laws, that, for the last two years had been in the hands of a committee, and which was finally matured by the aid of the experience which the Board had acquired since the settlement was made. It includes the charter which was granted to the first emigrants by the Ann, and the ordinance then adopted for the temporary government of the colony. The first of these confirmed to the emigrants and their descendants, the same rights and privileges that are to be found in the constitutions of most of the States of the Union. The latter, based upon the celebrated ordinance for the government of the North-west territory, gave the colonists the elements of a civil and penal code, defining the laws of succession to property, establishing a judiciary, and enumerating, and fixing the duties of the officers of the Society in Africa. The principal and most important part, however, of the code now transmitted is the ordinance for the redress of grievances, accompanied by a most ample collection of forms, which have been prepared with great learning and skill by Hugh D. Evans, Esq., who as chairman of the committee also superintended the publication of the volume. The colonists are now furnished with a code of laws, that renders them independent of reference to the complicated systems of this country.

During the last year, the Board received a communication from the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society, proposing the adoption of a system which would unite the societies already existing in this country, and their colonies in Africa under one head,—the American Colonization Society. To the proposition thus made, the Board gave their most serious and respectful attention, but not being convinced of the propriety of the measure—seeing nothing in the reasons urged to shake their conviction of the superior merits of the plan of independent state action, which had been adopted in Maryland, and believing that the plan was wholly premature if not entirely inapplicable so far as Africa was concerned, the proposition was declined, and the reasons of the Board respectfully and at length reported to the society at Washington.

In the last annual report the Board indicated the subject of education in Africa, as one which they were very desirous should be taken up by the female friends of colonization. The Board are happy to announce the formation since then of a society in Baltimore, called 'The Ladies' Society' for the promotion of education in Africa, through whose agency sufficient funds have been raised to employ a teacher, and his wife. Mr. Alleyne, the teacher, and his wife, who are in many respects most admirably adapted to their situation, sailed in the fall expedition, with an excellent outfit, also furnished by the Ladies' Society. The judicious instructions that have been given to them, if carried into effect, as it is expected that they will be, must make them most valuable acquisitions to the colony.