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, July, 1838.

No. 18.

When gratuitous please circulate.

Speech of the Rev. Robert J. Breckinridge.

Having previously expressed our opinion in regard to the profound views of our fellow-citizen, the Rev. Robert J. Breckinridge, in regard to the great enterprise of African colonization, we make no apology for devoting so much of our paper to the labours of his highly gifted mind.

The following speech is commended to the careful perusal of our patrons.

Extract from a Speech delivered before the Kenby the Rev. Robert J. Breckinridge.

The scheme of African colonization, as exhibited by our national society and its various auxiliaries, is a most noble conception. It is a stupendous plan-spanning the Atlantic and encircling in its wide embrace a nation of slaves, and a con-

tinent of heathens. thousand miles, the distance being seldom one hundred miles, and never that many leagues. It is over against Asia for a distance of one thousand three hundred miles, the whole length of the Red sea, whose breadth sometimes does not exceed Its coast for two thousand miles, lies opposite to than two thousand five hundred leagues.

reach, but on which the word of God sheds its holy light, Africa was planted by the descendants | verse, as it is this day. of Ham, the son of Noah. Cush settled in Lower Egypt, and from him were descended the ancient | tined to exert so extensive and so benign an influ- | since passed similar laws. On the adoption of the | astonishing triumphs of civilization, by which the Æthiopians, known to us as the Nubians and ence upon the European race, the descendants of federal constitution, congress was authorized to little states of Greece stamped her indelible name Abyssinians, and embracing, also, those unknown | Japhet, added increased bitterness to the cup of | prohibit, at the end of twenty years, the impor- | upon the very front of human glory! How small, nations inhabiting the equatorial regions of that affliction which seemed already overflowing for tation of negroes into any part of the United compared with the actual condition of Liberia, continent. Misraim peopled what was known to the children of Ham. The first adventurers to States; and the power was exercised at the ap- was the beginning of the Roman state-stern, the ancients as the Thebais, Hermopolis, Mem- | the western continent and the islands along the pointed time. No slaves have, therefore, been | wise, and unparalleled as she was—whose power phis, and the Delta of the Nile-to us, as Upper Atlantic coast, without the least remorse, reduced legally brought into this nation since the year overshadowed the face of the whole earth, and and Lower Egypt. From him also were descend- the simple and ignorant aborigines to a servitude 1808. ed, among other people of Africa, the inhabitants so monstrous, that in the island of Hispaniola After the close of our revolutionary war, many And who shall say that, when two centuries have of Colchis, the ancestors of the warlike Philis- alone, from the year of 1508 to 1517, the Indians | negroes, who fled from their masters, and sought | passed away, the continent of Africa shall not tines, whose descendants, until this day, if learned were reduced, by the brutal oppression under protection with the British armies during its pro- behold millions of free and christian men, lifting men are to be credited, have occupied so large a | which they groaned, from sixty thousand to four- | gress, were scattered through the Bahama islands, | up their hearts in thanksgiving to the God of their space on the page of history. Phut peopled teen thousand souls; and the extinction of this and Nova Scotia. Others had found their way to fathers, and in grateful recollections of the pil-From these, with such additions as emigration wholesale butchery was perpetrated under the consent, to Sierra Leone, on the western coast of The American Colonization Society has probaand frequent conquest have given, it is probable same execrable pretence of political necessity, Africa. About five years afterwards, twelve hun- bly succeeded to the extent of its original expecthat all the nations of Africa, however divided, under which has dis- dred of those from Nova Scotia were transported tation. It proposed to establish a colony of free mixed, or dispersed, originally came.

commonwealth and the republic of Tyre. Cad- of Spain, that the servitude of the Indians was 1805. The hostility of the Prench, the opposition the possibility of removing that population from Greece. Cecrops, at the head of an Egyptian | are not necessary to the complete understanding | and perhaps more than either, the heterogeneous | persons, and greatly ameliorate the state of society colony, founded the Athenian state, and gave laws of the subject before me. And perhaps enough | materials of which that settlement was composed, among ourselves. It was originally objected, that dition is to be credited, these and other colonies | from Indian to African subjugation; from crime | difficulties, however, have been surmounted. That | threshold, by the impossibility of procuring emifrom Africa, were driven out from their native | perpetrated on a feeble and nearly extinguished | colony contains more than twenty thousand souls, | grants. Experience has shown that many more of that empire, under whose iron sway the chosen | gations of justice and humanity to the Indians, | regular and stable appearance. people of God groaned, under a despotism so bit- beset the Spanish throne with prayers in their For some years anterior to 1816, the project of ling carried to any useful extent. This was clearly ter in its progress, so awful in its overthrow. | behalf, until by a fatality, singular and most un- | colonizing the free blacks of this country in Africa, | absurd, unless it had been shown that it was neces-There are several reflections here which wonder- happy, he saw their chains, which it was the ob- had occupied the serious consideration of indivi- sarily more costly to remove a free negro to Africa fully illustrate upon this fated race, the vicissi- ject of his life to break, rivetted forever; and those | duals in several parts of the union. The rapid | from America, than a slave to America from tudes which belong to all that is human. They whom he had designated, in the madness of his accumulation of free negroes, who amounted, at Africa; and that our national resources were who gave to our ancestors the first model of those | zeal, as their substitutes in wretchedness, became | that period, to two hundred and ten thousand, to | smaller when our population was ten millions, institutions which deserve to be called free, have only their fellows in slavery. As early as 1503, a which number they had grown from sixty thou- then when it was three millions. The experithe longest bowed down under insupportable few negroes had been sent to the new world. In sand, in twenty-six years, became a subject of ment has shown that emigrants may be sent out oppression. They who gave to Europe the first 1511, Ferdinand permitted their importation in general anxiety; in some of the states laws were for twenty dollars each; a sum equal in value to knowledge of the arts, and of human letters, have large numbers. Charles the Fifth, on his acces- passed annexing the condition of banishment to about three months labour of an adult male slave been shrouded in the longest and deepest intel- | sion to the throne, rejecting what was wise and | emancipation. The idea of colonizing them was | in most of the slave-holding states. It was farlectual darkness. They who, in the career of humane in the plans of Las Casas, and adopting probably first suggested in this country from the ther objected, that the unhealthiness of the cliresistless victory, first established the principle of so much of them as was abhorrent to every vir- success which attended the establishment at Sierra mate was an insurmountable obstacle in the way national, perpetual and hereditary slavery, have tuous feeling, granted an exclusive patent to one Leone. It was known, moreover, that the Portu- of colonizing any part of Africa. The facts stated deep and unmitigated curse.

manifest to every scholar, that when the ancients | within forty years, emancipated herself from a | and all the leading sects of evangelical christians speak of Egypt, their meaning is generally to be foreign despotism, used the large resources which in the United States, have, through their highest understood as of a country vastly more extensive, grew up under the shade of her recovered liberty, ecclesiastical tribunals, testified their cordial apthan we, with our better knowledge, would attach to deliver over an unoffending people to hopeless probation of its operations. The colony estabto that term. If indeed we should frequently bondage; and, that the climax of cupidity and lished at Liberia, under its auspices, occupies a understand them as meaning all Africa known to turpitude might be aptly adjusted, the whole fertile, and to the black constitution, a salubrious

rect view of the subject.

tucky Colonization Society, 6th January, 1831, rous than any that had preceded it, and when she among us I have been attempting to disclose. and from twenty to thirty miles in the interior. stood forth famous in arts and arms, the queen of As early as 1698, a settlement of Quakers near About one thousand eight hundred colonists, who nations; when there appeared beforehand, no Germantown, in Pennsylvania, publicly expressed have been sent there from the United States, with probability of great reverses, and the prince who | their opinion of the unrighteousness of human | about half as many more re-captured Africans, filled her throne, boasted, as we are informed by bondage. And from that day till the present, constitute an independent, republican, and chris-Herodotus, that no God could deprive him of his | there have flourished in our country, men of large | tian community, in the midst of that benighted kingdom;' just then, when it would appear to and just views, who have not ceased to pour over land. The rites of our holy religion are regularly human observation that the mercies of God were | this subject a stream of clear and noble truth, and | observed, and its precepts as well obeyed as among poured out profusely on Africa, his decree went to importune their country, by every motive of ourselves. Schools are regularly conducted for Africa is classed as one of the great divisions forth against her: From the tower of Syene, even duty and advantage, to wipe from her escutcheon the education of the youth of the colony, and of the earth, and is a vast peninsular continent, unto the border of Ethiopia,' the curse of the have not lived many children of the natives are also training in extending from the 37th degree of north, to about | Most High clave unto the land. The seed of his | in vain. In better times their counsels will be | them. All the institutions of a young, though the 34th degree of south latitude; and from the chosen had been enticed and betrayed; they had heard. When the day comes, and come it surely very flourishing community are in successful ope-17th degree of west, to the 51st degree of east reposed upon her, and been pierced with many | will, when, throughout this broad empire, not an ration. I have recently seen several numbers of longitude. Its greatest length is about five thou- sorrows. Thou art like a young lion of the na- aspiration shall go up to the throne of God, that a weekly newspaper, published by a free man of sand miles, and its greatest breadth more than tions'-'I will does not emanate from a freeman's heart, they colour, at Monrovia, containing notices of the four thousand. Considering its peculiarly advan- scatter the Egyptians among the nations'-I will live in story, the apostles of that hallowed various interests which indicate a well established tageous situation, it is surprising that, in all ages, make many people amazed at thee'-'Ashur is reign of peace, and men will quote their names to and prosperous little state. Notices of popular it has been comparatively so little known by the there and all her company'-'There is Elam and adorn the highest lessons of wisdom, and enforce, elections, of the condition of the military force rest of the world; for standing, as it were, in a all her multitude'-There is Mesheck, Tubal, and by great examples, the practice of high and vir- and the public defence, of public roads opened central position, between the other three quarters, all her multitude'-There is Edom, her kings, tuous actions. it affords a much more ready communication with and all her princes of the with the increase of the number of slaves, estates, of mercantile prosperity and commercial Europe, Asia and America, than they do with | north, all of them, and all the Zidonians'-It | became more apparent the injuries inflicted by | enterprise, of the little incidents of social life, and each other. It is opposite to Europe along the shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall slavery itself, upon every interest associated with what is not less striking and indicative of the state Mediterranean, whose shores were the nursery of it exalt itself any more above the nations; for I it. The voice of reason and humanity began to of the people, literary notices, and light efforts in our race, in a line from east to west, for almost a | will diminish them, that they shall no more rule | be listened to, when that of interest uttered its | the belies lettres, for the gratification of the popuover the nations.' For more than two thousand sounds in unison. What individuals had long lar taste. Such traits as these impress us, not less years the annals of every people attest the fulfil- foreseen, some of our communities began at length strongly with the existing condition of affairs at ment of this remarkable prophecy. Conquered to apprehend and provide against. A duty on the Liberia, than those interesting details of its growth, by the Persians, under Cambyses, within fifty importation of slaves was laid by New York, in prosperity and general advancement, which are years after this prediction; conquered again by 1753, by Pennsylvania, in 1762, and by New Jer- | regularly given to the American public from aufifteen miles, and seldom one hundred and fifty. the Macedonians; subjugated and pillaged by the sey, in 1769. Virginia, the first to introduce them, thentic sources, and which I could not now reca-Romans, and made the theatre of many of their was also the earliest in setting the example of pitulate, without an inexcusable trespass upon America, at a distance of from five hundred to | bloodiest wars; overwhelmed by the Saracens; | their exclusion. In 1778, in the midst of civil | your patience. The result of the whole is full to seven hundred leagues, if we include the islands; subjugated, scourged, and made desolate by the war, she put upon the pages of her history, an the point, that one great object of the colonization whereas America is scarce any where nearer to | Mamelukes; devastated by the Turks; overrun | enduring record of her respect for those rights of | society has been completely attained. A colony Europe than one thousand leagues, nor to Asia, by the French; for a hundred generations made other men, for which she was freely pouring out has been actually established, possessing all the except in the inhospitable climate of Kamschatka, the battle field of nations, and the constant victim her own blood, by prohibiting the introduction of elements of permanent and boundless prosperity. of them all; and worse than all, her children, for slaves into any of her ports. In 1780, Pennsyl- The germ of a great and cultivated nation has At a period to which profane history does not | centuries together, swept into distant and hopeless | vania passed a law for the gradual abolition of | already taken root in the midst of Africa. The bondage—scattered and sifted throughout the uni- slavery, which has the merit of being the earliest | leaven of christianity is already mixed up with

the sorest, and the most unpitied, wept under that of his Flemish favourites, to import four thousand guese, the English, in a former part of this address, the accounts of negroes into America. The patent was sold to had established white settlements along the coast all travellers who have visited that continent-Certain portions of Africa were, as early as any certain Genoese merchants for twenty-five thou- of Africa, from the Cape of especially of Mungo Park, who saw more of its other regions, erected into regular communities, sand ducats. The Portuguese had found the trade Good Hope. More than a century ago the French interior than all other Europeans—and the uniafter the re-peopleing the earth by the descendants | in slaves, which had been long abolished a post on the Senegal, four hun- form experience of the American colony, leave of Noah. That some of those communities very one of the first advantages derived from the disco- dred miles from its mouth. At Congo, the Portu- no room to doubt that the region of country early attained to a high degree of cultivation, veries in Africa. The Genoese, under the patent guese had grown into a considerable colony. At owned by it, is pleasant and to the black constiwealth and power, there is abundant evidence in of the emperor, found no difficulty in procuring the southern extremity of Africa, the Dutch and tution, extremely salubrious. It was also assertprofane history, in the Holy Scriptures, and in the victims of their avarice, and were the first English had spread over a country larger than the ed, that if all these obstacles were overcome, and those extraordinary monuments of taste and mag- | who brought into regular form that commerce in | southern peninsula of Europe. It was not then a | a colony established, it would be unable to supnificence, which placed beyond the farthest verge | the souls and | question requiring serious debate, whether Ame- | port itself against the native tribes in its neighof knowledge, and as it were, beside its regular | America, which inflicts, of all things else, the rica could do what many nations had done before. | bourhood. This cavil also has been answered by current, yet remain the wonder and astonishment | most indelible stain on the character of mankind. In 1802, Mr. Jefferson, then president of the Uni- experience. In 1822, when the settlement was

of mankind. That their progress in immorality | The first settlements which were made by the | ted States, in compliance with the request of the | weak and but recently established, it was fully and crime, was equal to their advance in civiliza- | English on the continent of North America, were | Virginia legislature, communicated by governor | competent to carry on, and terminate with suction, there remains no doubt. He who has dwelt | under the auspices of corporations, or individuals, | Monroe, entered into negotiations, which proved | cess, a war with the native tribes. The result of much on such subjects, may consider this as in to whom extensive grants had been made by the unsuccessful, with the Sierra Leone company, that war was so decidedly favourable to the colono way different from the ordinary course of English crown. The company that settled the and afterwards with Portugal, to procure a situation ny, that the colonial agent, Mr. Ashmun, in his events, and as accounting well enough for many colony of Virginia had monopolized its commerce tion for an American colony of blacks in Africa. report for 1825, says, 'our influence over them is of the calamities which have befallen them in up to the year 1620. In that year, this monopoly The project continued to gain strength, until, on unbounded, it is more extensive than I dare, at subsequent ages. I dispute not with philosophy; was given up, and the trade opened. A Dutch | the 21st day of December, 1816, the first public | this early period, risk my character for veracity but there is another view of the matter—and I | vessel from the coast of Guinea, availing itself of | meeting to form a colonization society in this | by asserting. But I beg leave to refer, at least, would that philosophy were more frequently en- | the commercial liberty which prevailed, brought | country, was held at Washington city; and shortly | to facts already communicated, to our military ticed to such contemplations-which has appear- into James river twenty Africans, who were im- afterwards the American society was established, expeditions into the heart of the country unintered to me most solemn and striking. Egypt was | mediately purchased as slaves. An ordinance | under the patronage of many of the most distin- | rupted, to our purchase of the Saint Paul's, admisthe most powerful of the kingdoms of Africa for | that all heathen persons might be held as slaves, | guished citizens of this nation. many ages. As it stood on the threshold of the and that their descendants, although christians, Formed under such a crisis, Sesters. On several occasions of alarm from the only entrance to that continent accessible to the might be continued in slavery, sealed on this and for such an object, this society has steadily interior, the whole population of the country has ancients, and was itself the medium of all inte- continent the doom of the wretched African. pursued its onward course, the object of many a been ready to throw itself into our arms for prorior communication with it; as its boundaries, if | Such was the inception of slavery in the United | bitter sarcasm, of various and contradictory accu- | tection.' What adds greatly to the security of

the nations of Asia and Europe; as their know- us, of an oppressed and suffering race, which has and of grave and deep reproach. Full of the noledge of her surrounding, tributary and allied augmented by a very rapid propagation, and con- ble ardour which belongs to generous enterprise, states was still less accurate; as it was the uni- tinual importation in somewhat more than two it has triumphed at every step, and won its way form habit of all ancient conquerers, of whom | centuries, from twenty souls, to two millions. | to the confidence and applause of men. It num. Egypt produced many, to manifest the most ex- Virginia, the most ancient of our commonwealths, bers over one hundred and sixty auxiliary societravagant pretensions to grandeur and empire; in was the first of them to lend herself to the oppres- ties; eleven states have, by their legislatures, fine, from a variety of such considerations, it is sion of these unhappy men. Holland, who had, recommended it to the patronage of congress; them, we should not, perhaps, be far from the cor- matter was concluded in the name of christianity. region, extending from Gallinas river to the terri-

At a period in her history scarcely less prospe- of the unnatural condition of society, whose origin | eighty miles, along the western coast of Africa,

graced our race, has found its constant defence. to Sierra Leone, by the British government. The blacks, from the United States, with their own Agenor, an Egyptian, founded the Phænecian It was sanctioned by a formal decree of the king | Maroons, from Jamaica, were removed thither in | consent, in Africa; and thus to show by the fact, mus, the son of Agenor, founded the republic of | warranted by the laws both of God and man.' I of the natives, the selection of a situation which | the United States, in such a manner as would Thebes, and introduced the use of letters into | have no intention of entering into details which | proved to be unfortunate in many local particulars, | decidedly improve the condition of those unhappy to the barbarous hordes of Attica. If profane tra- has been said to show how easy was the transition for some years, retarded its growth. All these the plan would be rendered impracticable at its regions by the first of the shepherd kings, (who | race, to similar crime inflicted on one more robust, | of whom more than three-fourths are re-captured | were always desirous of emigrating than the sociwere themselves the Amelekites, descendants of more degraded, and therefore more suitable to the Africans, whose rapacious owners had destined ety had the means of removing. At this time not Canaan, another son of Ham,) who devastated purposes of an insatiable rapacity. Barthelemi | them for foreign bondage. Towns are reared up, | less than three thousand individuals would gladly Egypt at the head of two hundred and forty thou- de las Casas, bishop of Chiapa, heading the little | churches and schools established, agriculture has | remove to Liberia, if the necessary funds could be sand warriors, and established at Tanais the seat | band of ecclesiastics who still recognized the obli- | become a settled pursuit, and society has put on a | procured. It was also objected, that the expense

well defined at all, were not accurately known to I States. Such was the first settlement amongst sation, of flippant and most impertinent contempt, the colony, both from internal and foreign ene-

Men were not so slow in discovering the evils | tory of Kroo Seltra, a distance of two hundred and and repaired, of the improvement and transfer of legislative proceeding of the kind in any country. the mass of her dark and absurd superstitions. The discovery of America, which was des- All the states, north and east of Maryland, have How much feebler was the origin of all those transmuted every thing into the likeness of itself! Lybia and Mauritania, embracing the kingdom of miserable remnant was hastened by more aggra- England. In 1787, a private company in Eng- grims of Mesurado, in like manner as we cherish Fez, the deserts, Algiers, and other portions. vated calamities. You will observe that this land sent four hundred of them, with their own the recollection of the landing at Plymouth Rock.

> of removal would be so great as to prevent its besion into the Grand Bassa, and acquisition of the