Rev. J. A. Easton
Agent Maryland Col: Society
Baltimore
Md.

Rev John N. Vaughan
New York City
Md Easton
11 December 1837

Angl

NATCHEZ, 12TH DECEMBER, 1837.

Dear Sir:

The Mississippi State Colonization Society solicit your friendly aid in the prosecution of their enterprize—the Colonizing, with their own consent, on the coast of Africa, the free people of color of Mississippi.

This Society is actively and successfully engaged in laying the foundation of a Colony on the coast of Africa, for the reception of emigrants from this State.

In pursuance of this object, they succeeded in purchasing from the native proprietors in August 1836, a very valuable territory on the coast of Africa, at the mouth of Sinoe river, about midway between Cape Palmas, where the Maryland colony is located, and Bassa Cove, at which last named place a Colony has been planted under the direction of the associated Societies of New York and Pennsylvania.

In December last, a settlement was commenced with acclimated emigrants from the older settlements of Liberia, under the superintendence of Mr. Daniel Johnston, an intelligent and enterprising citizen of Liberia, formerly from Charleston, South Carolina.

Mr. Johnston, in a letter to Dr. Stephen Duncan, President of this Society, dated November 1836, gives the following description of our Territory, viz:

"The location of the contemplated settlement is one of the most fertile spots on the Western coast of Africa. My past and present knowledge of the place, gives me the liberty of thus expressing myself. In regard to its facilities for trade, it excels all the other towns on the coast. The whole neighborhood abounds in stock and grain. I am well acquainted with the native tribes around—their customs, manners, &c. As soon as they were informed that I was going to live amongst them, they were so elated at the idea, that they sent messengers to inform me of their willingness to have me come.

"We have greater facilities of landing goods from vessels, than any other place on the coast. We have always from three to four fathoms water on the bar; so that a craft of good size can go over and unlade at the very landing of the town. This place on the whole, is more eligible for a settlement than any other place between Sierra Leone and Cape Palmas."

In April last, the schooner Oriental was chartered to convey REV. JOSIAH F. C. FINLEY, and Dr. J. D. BLODGETT, who had recently been appointed officers of the Colony, the former to act as Governor, and the latter to act as Colonial Physician and Surveyor of lands—together with a quantity of trade-goods, and other needful articles to the Colony. They arrived in safety, after a tedious passage, some time in July last.

The following extract of a letter from Dr. Blodgett, bearing date 4th of August, 1837, gives the latest and most authentic information from our Colony:

"We arrived at this place on the 22nd of last month, and were astonished to find it so much improved. Houses were constructed, and all things in readiness for the reception of emigrants. An ample store-house, two stories high, enclosed with boards sawed, and covered with shingles made at this place; a blacksmith shop; a barricade; a garden of one or two acres, planted with vegetables and fruit trees; a farm planted with cassada; three yoke of oxen, broken and lustily at work; cart and other implements, all constructed (even to the wheels) on the spot; and lastly, a schooner of thirty tons burthen more than half completed.

"Mr. Johnston has labored with almost incredible industry. All the things above mentioned have been accomplished in the short space of eight months. The health of this place has been good. At present there is no sickness here. Mr. Finley has been sick a few days, but is now, I am happy to say, convalescent. The location of this place I like very much. It must be, from its situation, very salubrious. The soil is fertile. The Bay affords excellent anchorage in eight fathoms water. The banks of the river are high, rocky, romantic, and formed of granite. We have excellent water to drink. Rice and Palm Oil are abundant among the natives. It is said, that after journeying about a day and a half into the interior, you come to a country abounding in camwood.

"The trade of this place is Rice, Palm Oil, Cattle and Ivory. We are preparing to prosecute every thing with vigor, &c."

By direction of the Executive Committee, the Colony has been named "*Mississippi in Africa*," and the town laid out upon it, "*Greenville*," in commemoration of the liberality manifested towards this enterprize by our countryman, James Green, deceased.

We are preparing to despatch another vessel to the Colony with emigrants and supplies—to sail from N. Orleans on the first of March next.

In the accomplishment of these objects, debts have been incurred, which are pressing upon the Society. A large amount of money will also be required in the further prosecution of the enterprize. More territory is to be acquired; roads are to be opened;

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

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