

United States and Liberia Steamship Company.

The growing importance of the Republic of Liberia and the increasing applications from emigrants for passage thither, have induced some friends of the Colonization Society to organize a company for the purpose of carrying on communication with that Republic by means of steam vessels running from New York or other Atlantic ports to Liberia and ports on the west coast of Africa, and intermediate ports, including Teneriffe, Madeira, Gambia, Cape de Verds, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Bassa, Sinou, and Cape Palmas. In the transportation of emigrants, steam vessels possess over sailing vessels an incalculable advantage, not only in the rapidity and certainty with which the passages are effected, but also of the certainty of landing passengers in better health than when carried by sailing ships. To the emigrant to Liberia this advantage is great indeed, from the fact that landing in health rather than debility, the progress of his acclimatization will be proportionably hastened and the risk of serious sickness almost done away. The fact that there is a regular communication, in from 20 to 25 days, with every comfort and security, will, without doubt, in a very short time induce numerous families of respectable, and comparatively independent, colored people to emigrate to a land offering such inducements as Liberia now does to them. What would be the amount of emigration even to California were there no regular and safe steam communication with it?

There is nothing so important to the future well-being of the Republic of Liberia as to secure the voluntary emigration of precisely this class, and in no other way can it be secured than by affording this safe and speedy communication. In addition to this most desirable class of passengers, there may confidently be expected yearly increasing numbers of merchants, traders and agriculturists of Liberia to visit this country for the purpose of purchasing goods and seeing friends and relations here, and thus diffusing correct information among the colored people of our country, and stimulating emigration. The few of this class who now visit the United States, are almost without exception the best agents which the Colonization Society have during the period of their stay here.

Independently of the benefit to the emigrant, the Liberian Republic itself must reap great advantages from ready and certain intercourse with the United States; the citizens finding an increased outlet for their produce, would be stimulated to enlarged and improved productions.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

12. January 1853--April 1855

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