DAILY COURIER.

LOCKPORT, N. Y.

Monday Evening, May 17, 1858.

The Holcomb Case.

Subjoined we give place to a letter received from Dr. JAMES HALL, agent of the African Colonization Society, in regard to the return of the HOLCOMB family from Liberia. The ship *M. C. Stevens*, that he speaks of, left Baltimore on the first day of May last, and will return early in the ensuing fall. We infer from Dr. HALL's letter that the entire family will have to return if any, and this is a concession from the established usage of the Society. There are six persons in the family, and but one of them would come under the schedule of half-price. The terms of passage from or to Liberia is $35.00 steerage passage, and the amount necessary to bring them all home would be $202-50. If the husband, wife and youngest child would be permitted to return alone, the cost of passage would be $87.50. The facts are all before our citizens, and they must take such action as their judgment dictates:

BALTIMORE, May 14, 1858.

S. S. POMROY, Esq., Lockport, N. Y.:

DEAR SIR:—Your favor of the 10th inst., with enclosure, came to hand this morning, and in answer to your first interrogatory, will say that the ship *M. C. Stevens* sails regularly from this port to the several ports of Liberia twice a year, taking out and bringing back steerage passengers at $35 each—not bringing back any passengers, or rather emigrants, who have not remained in the Republic for two years, unless for some definite and weighty cause, other than homesickness or general dissatisfaction. Any responsible party guaranteeing the payment, as per enclosed schedule, of the passage of the Holcomb family, I will remit an order to the Captain of the ship, now on her voyage out, to bring them home.

As to the propriety, expediency or humanity of the step, I cannot, perhaps, be considered an impartial judge, although I have lived many years in Liberia, and seen the worst side of things. That people suffer from severe and repeated attacks of fever, is what I have always proclaimed to all applicants for emigration—that they become depressed and despondent rom this and other causes is also true, but that an industrious energetic man cannot get a good living, is false. True, vegetable diet prevails there as in all other tropical countries—it is a provision of nature, as much so as the fat oily animal food in the polar regions and no vegetables. But although hogs do not live in Liberia, unless kept from running at large, where they get poisonous fruits and roots,—yet ducks and fowls live and rapidly proprogate almost without feeding, living mostly on insects. Goats, Sheep and cattle are also easily raised. In short, its useless to pretend or assert that folks do not get along well in Liberia. The existence, self-support and self government of the Republic is sufficient evidence. I said that I had seen the worst side of the matter, true I have so, have seen a great deal of misery and suffering in the early stages of the Colony and even now there is more or less of it, but this I will say and the fact supports me in working till death in the cause, that I have never seen an industrious sober man who had lived in the Colony or Republic three years, that was willing to leave it for any other part of the world.

Of Mr. Holcomb, I know little personally. He bore a good reputation and much was anticipated from his emigration by the Agent of Colonization Society of New York, Mr. Perry, but he had made many changes and shifts before he left, and was yet poor. I fear he is not a happily constituted man, and will not do much any where—however of this I am no judge.

I did not intend saying more than that what is embraced in the last six words when I began so. I will trouble you no more in decyphering my scribbled hand.

Very, Respectfully Yours,
JAMES HALL.

LAWS OF NEW YORK—By Authority.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
B. Letter Books, Shipping

1. April 1857—March 1858
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