of the Board, and to the Maryland Society, and was for the time satisfactorily adjusted. By the correspondence which then took place between the Secretary of the Board and the President of the Maryland Society, it was arranged by the latter that missionaries going from this country as such, whether white or coloured, and whose character at Cape Palmas continued to be that of missionaries only, should be exempted alike from the duties and privileges of citizens of the colony. And it was supposed to be admitted by the Maryland Society as a settled principle of law that foreigners, residing for a temporary purpose only, within the limits of the colony could not be called upon to do military duty, or to perform other services of a like character, which citizens of the colony as such were liable to perform. In May, 1841, however, our missionaries ascertained that the Maryland Society had determined that all the natives of Africa who came to reside within the limits of the colonial territory, were for special and temporary purposes, to be subjected to the performance of military service, and a liability to be called upon to bear arms against the native tribes to which they belonged. And in accordance with this determination, several young men employed by the mission as teachers, printers, etc. belonging to tribes and communities of natives beyond the limits of the colony, and owing no allegiance to its government, were fined for not performing military duty. These facts having been communicated to the Prudential Committee of the Board, a correspondence was again opened with the Maryland Society, through its president, in November last, which finally resulted in resolutions by the Prudential Committee, that they felt bound, in justice to their missionaries, to enter their serious and earnest protest against the enforcement of this military regulation of the Maryland Colonization Society, against the missionaries and assistant missionaries of the Board at Cape Palmas and their native helpers and pupils, respectfully requesting the Board of Managers of that society to give to their agent such instructions as would effectually prevent any agitation of that subject for the future. These resolutions having been communicated to the president of that society, and laid before the Board of Managers, they came to the conclusion that the interest of their colony required the enforcement of this military regulation against the native teachers and others in the employ of the missionaries of the Board; and they accordingly communicated to the Prudential Committee their fixed determination to adhere to their ordinance in that respect.

If this were the only difficulty in the case, your committee might have hoped, from the christian courtesy in which the whole correspondence has been carried on, between the President of the Society and the Secretary of the Board, that some arrangement of that subject might still have been effected, which would have relieved this Board from the painful necessity of removing their mission from the limits of the territory of the colony. But the Colonization Society at home, and its local government at Cape Palmas, have thought it necessary, in protecting the peculiar interests of its citizens as colonists, to adopt other regulations which have perplexed and embarrassed the operations of the mission to a considerable extent. Among other things, a law has been passed by the colonial government to confine the right of trading or dealing in merchandise to the citizens of the colony, with certain exceptions. By the operation of this law, the missionaries are restricted from disposing of merchandise, &c. sent out to them for the payment of persons in their employ in the colony, at an advance upon its cost. And as the usual price at which such goods are sold by others, in payment of labour, materials, &c. is at one hundred per cent. advance. The practical operation of the law appears to be to compel the missionaries to pay nearly double what is paid by others for the same services, &c.; as there is little or no money in circulation there. Another law provides that persons of African descent, emigrating to the colony for employment, shall obtain a certificate of residence, under a heavy penalty for each day's neglect; which certificate of residence brings them necessarily within the operation of the ordinance relative to militia duty. And as almost the only persons of that description who come into the colony for employment are teachers whom the missionaries have procured from different points of the coast, the missionaries have reason to consider this law as particularly aimed at them, by the local government of the colony; and as intended to embarrass them in procuring such teachers and retaining them in their service.

Your committee, however, from the correspondence of the missionaries and otherwise, have arrived at the conclusion, that the real cause of the difficulty of continuing missionary operations within the territorial bounds of the colony, with the view of extending the blessings of christianity to the native tribes of this portion of benighted Africa, lies much deeper than the gratification of unkind feelings on the part of the colonists, towards the missionaries of this Board. And that the inherent difficulties of the case, is the fact that the local authorities of the colony find, or at least suppose that the temporal interests of the colonists as such, necessarily conflict with the objects of the Board, in establishing its missionary stations in the colony or its neighbourhood, to civilize and christianize the native inhabitants. It is perfectly natural that the government of a colony possessing territorial jurisdiction, and exercising civil power therein, should direct its attention to the increase of the wealth, the supply of the temporal wants, and the securing of the personal safety of the colonists, rather than to the spiritual good of the native inhabitants of the country in which such colony is planted, while the attention of the faithful missionaries of the Board located within the colony, is primarily if not exclusively directed to the latter object. The result of such a conflict of interests and of duties, between the colonists and the missionaries, has been, in this case, to render the colonists hostile, both to the native inhabitants of the coast and to the missionaries who are labouring for the spiritual welfare of such natives; and thus to render a removal of the mission necessary as well as expedient. All which is respectfully submitted.—*From the N. E. Puritan.*

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BALTIMORE, MD., *Oct.* 1, 1842.

To the Editors of the N. E. Puritan:

Gentlemen,—I noticed in your paper of the 22nd ult. the Report of a Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, "to whom was referred the communication relative to the mission at Cape Palmas," in which are contained many reflections upon the character of the government and the colonists at Cape Palmas, tending to injure them in the estimation of mankind. Being a citizen of that colony, and, of course, suffering in common with other of my brethren, I feel myself impelled, by the highest and most solemn considerations, to repel the unjust charges and unwarrantable assumptions contained in that Report; and I trust, gentlemen, that in consideration of the circumstances of the case, you will be disposed to admit this communication to your columns. I am aware that the bare assertions of an humble coloured man, banished by a cruel prejudice from his native land, and who has sought a home in barbarous Africa, can have but little weight when thrown into the balance against the dicta of the congregated learning and piety of the most intelligent body of christians in the United States; and it is with a deep sense of my unfitness for the task, that I presume to comment upon the Report of a Committee of gentlemen of such standing, honoured by the name of its distinguished chairman. But duty to myself and a much-injured people, compels me to come forward and declare wherein we are injured, and to appeal to the justice of the American public. It is not my purpose, at all, to discuss the question at issue between the Maryland State Colonization Society and the A. B. C. F. M. I merely propose to defend myself and my brethren where we have been most unjustly assailed.

I would, however, remark, that even previous to the establishment of the colony at Cape Palmas, the constitution and the code of laws, so far as they affect the question at issue between the Colonization and Missionary Boards, were written and published, and copies thereof distributed throughout Liberia and the United States. The principles there laid down were, that no person should reside within the colony, unless by special permission of the agent; that all residents in the colony should bear arms in its defence; and subsequently, it was granted, at the special request of the American Board, that missionaries leaving the United States, as such, should be exempted from military duty. No other exemption was at first asked, and none other, to my knowledge, has been granted, except as a matter of favour. "The first difficulty which occurred," says the Report, "was in 1838, (four years after the establishment of the mission,) when an attempt was made to collect a fine from a *native coloured* man in the employ of the Mission, as a *teacher*." This brief statement contains two material errors, and both of a character involving important principles, with regard to the existing differences. The man was not a *native*, nor a *teacher*. He was born in Baltimore, emigrated to Liberia in 1831, went to Cape Palmas in the first expedition, as a house servant of Dr. Hall, then governor of the colony. Upon Mr. Wilson's arrival in the colony, he found much difficulty

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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