to Rev. A. Herring, (our Methodist preacher for the last two years,) for seconding all our efforts to infuse into the colonists a spirit of improvement in agriculture and manufactures. He has been to us a real diamond. I hope he may be continued another year.

For months we have been without nails, only 10 kegs came out in the Chipola.

Very respectfully, your obd't servant,

JNO. B. RUSSWURM, A. Md. S. C. S.

Letter of Com. Perry, late of the African Squadron, to the Secretary of the American Colonization Society.

NEW YORK, *January* 19, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have received your letter of the 9th inst., in which you express a wish that I should attend the annual meeting of the American Colonization Society, which commences its session to-morrow, at Washington. Nothing would give me greater pleasure, than to become acquainted with the distinguished officers and managers of that excellent institution, and to communicate freely to them all the information I possess in regard to the African settlements, but the necessary execution of some particular duties assigned me by the Secretary of the Navy, will put it out of my power to visit Washington at this time.

I should regret this the more, if I could be satisfied that any thing I could say in addition to what has been embodied in my official and other written communications, would have any influence in bringing others to think as I do upon the subject of African colonization.

From the earliest period of my acquaintance with your Society, when as 1st lieutenant of the sloop-of-war Cyane, I sailed from this port in company with the ship Elizabeth, freighted with the first party of emigrants to Africa, and during subsequent cruises to the coast, the last as commander of the American squadron on that station; I have never for a moment ceased to believe that the cause in which you are embarked is one of righteousness and justice.

Few have had better opportunities than myself of tracing the fortunes of the Liberian colony: I have seen it in every vicissitude of trial, and have been astonished, that a handful of uneducated blacks, many of them emancipated slaves, should have reared up a government of their own; possessing as it does so many claims to the characteristics of wisdom, order and morality.

In looking at these extraordinary results, and in witnessing the comforts, and the religious and social order of these people, one is irresistibly led to the conclusion, that the Almighty has had them in his especial keeping, and for some wise purpose of His merciful providence.

It would seem that this part of Africa was never designed for the habitation of the white man. Its pestilential climate effectually forbids the wily encroachments of "the Pale faces," upon these exclusive possessions of the descendants of Ham. But it is to the white man these very descendants are to look for aid to enable them to build up an empire in their own fruitful country—not only fruitful, but congenial, in climate and temperature, after acclimation, to the constitution of black men.

It has always been a matter of surprise to me, that the efforts of the Colonization Society have not been more liberally sustained. I can conceive of no charity which commends itself more directly to the sympathies of philanthropists, both in this country and England —as by contributing freely to the objects of this institution, the white man renders justice in part, for the wrong inflicted upon the negro in tearing him from his country.

I have had reason of late to doubt the sincerity of England in her exclusive pretensions of sympathy for the condition of the black man, and especially in her apparent efforts to suppress the slave trade. This abominable traffic might have been entirely destroyed years ago if the powers of Europe, who by treaty stipulations have granted the mutual right of search, upon the African station, had coupled this stipulation with a law "similar to that of the United States," making it piracy for the respective subjects of the contracting powers to be engaged in the transportation of slaves from Africa. Of the hundreds of these villains (principally Portuguese and Spaniards) who are annually captured in slave vessels by British cruisers, not one, so far as I know, has ever been brought to punishment.

With every wish for your success in your benevolent undertaking,

I am, dear sir, your most obd't serv't,

REV. W. MCLAIN. M. C. PERRY.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47