WHITE LABOUR IN AFRICA.

The disastrous results attending the late Niger expedition, add but another to the thousand and one abortive attempts to operate upon Africa, through the instrumentality of the European race, and confirm our often repeated conviction, that if any thing is to be done to christianize or civilize the tropical portion of that continent, it must be through those Africans who have been long enough in some civilized land to imbibe the spirit of their political, social and religious institutions. It appears to be the fixed and incontrovertible law of nature, that the white man shall never fasten upon that land or strike root in its soil. He may traffic on its borders, take captive and enslave its inhabitants, but can never dispossess them of their God-given inheritance. That continent is begirt with the cloud and pillar, which sheds light upon its sons but darkness and death upon intruders.

For three centuries has maritime Europe circumnavigated that land, and studded the coast with their slave factories and mission stations, and all of no avail. The returning season has found the newly planted colony of the year before, reduced to but a tithe of its original numbers, and perhaps all swept away and not a vestige even of their location remaining. There is not a spot on that coast but what furnishes a tradition of the white man's settling near it at some period more or less remote, and (with the few exceptions of the large towns and forts,) the result has been the same—they have fattened the soil they would possess.

The recent experiment, however, of establishing a settlement on the Niger proves more conclusively than any and all others, that the permanent or even temporary occupancy of any part of tropical Africa by the whites to any good effect is totally and absolutely impracticable. Hitherto, many of the efforts to colonize have been stimulated by the rank cupidity of the slave trade, or the burning enthusiastic zeal of the missionary, and 'tis not reasonable to suppose that in either case any regular systematic measures were adopted for the preservation of health or for counteracting such causes as might be supposed productive of disease. Nor was it to be expected that for a long period much correct knowledge of the character of the diseases peculiar to that country could be obtained. It was to be hoped, however, that the oft repeated experiments of those, who, from many and different causes, were disposed to visit the African coast, from the very great improvements in the arts and sciences, particularly that of the healing art, that some course would be opened by which the white man might resist the action of that fatal malaria, and be able to act upon and regenerate the inhabitants of that bountiful, but ill-fated land.

With the fate of the last Quorra expedition, such hopes are entirely annihilated. It seems as if nothing could have been wanting that human ingenuity and forethought could suggest, in the fitting out of that expedition. It was under the patronage of a rich and liberal government—under the special supervision of the most intelligent and philanthropic of the age—aided too by the counsels of those who had long been acquainted with the African

coast and the peculiarity of its diseases; every necessary for comfort and convenience, every remedy, prophylactic and curative were furnished and all placed under the direction of men eminently fitted and qualified to direct and manage such an expedition; and the grand object of the whole experiment was but to shew that the white man could live in the interior of Africa.

Its total failure must convince the African Civilization Society, must convince the world, that if Africa is to be christianized, is to be civilized, it must be through the instrumentality of her own children.

It is high time that all action of public bodies with regard to Africa should be based upon this but too well established fact. There has been already a sufficient sacrifice of human life in that country, and it is high time it should cease if it can without materially retarding or deranging the plans projected for improving the condition of the people of that continent.

Even setting the fact of the great sacrifice of life entirely out of the question, we maintain that more can be effected in Africa by well educated, intelligent, good principled coloured men than by the same number of white men, even of the highest order: and that too solely from the fact of the influence of the climate upon the latter individually, and their necessary frequent absences for the improvement of their health. We preached this doctrine seven years since, when communicating with the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society respecting the appointment of an agent, but it met not with a response from a single member of that body. Subsequently, they were disposed to try the *experiment*, as it then truly was. They tried it, and what has been the result? Why, a six successive years of the administration of an able, judicious and peace-making man, highly respected by the colonists, beloved by the natives, and honoured by all who have visited the colony or acquainted themselves with its history.

The American Colonization Society have at length adopted the same course, and we now predict, that with the same patronage it has received for the last three years, that colony will enjoy a prosperity to which she has for a very long period been a stranger. The British government have at length opened their eyes to this policy and followed the example of Maryland, by appointing an old, faithful and long tried coloured citizen of Sierra Leone its governor, Dr. Furgusson. He is the successor of a long list of titled gentlemen who have one after another fallen victims to the African fever. The last accounts from the coast state that the British government is again about to take into their own hands, the range of forts on the gold coast which they have long farmed out to white merchants, when doubtless they will, like Sierra Leone, be placed under the supervision of coloured men.

We feel that African Colonization never really commenced until the black man was invested with the supreme command, or filled the most important offices of state. The colony in order to flourish must be *absolutely* and *entirely*, *heart* and *soul*, an *African* colony.

These views are not less important with regard to missionary operations on the coast, and we are glad to note that the papers advocating the various missions in Africa, are turning their attention to the subject. The following is from the Boston Recorder and makes a very good beginning for a thorough investigation of the comparative expediency, utility and availableness of

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XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)—May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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