better to protect a species of property which no human power can protect and render safe,—or the one which would retain this sixty thousand people in their present state of intellectual and moral degradation, and who if improved and enlightened would but the more clearly perceive and keenly feel the value of political rights and social privileges, which it is declared by all they shall never enjoy in Maryland,—we must confess we are unable to decide. The action of the former would doubtless be most objectionable and cruel in its operation, the latter most disastrous in its consequences. Speculation upon the subject, however, is premature and useless, for the ground taken by either party is untenable and the execution of their plans impracticable. The chances of the perpetuity of slavery are no greater than when the sagacious and keen-sighted Jefferson pronounced that *'nothing is more clearly written in the book of destiny, than the final emancipation of the blacks.'* And we firmly believe it must necessarily follow, that any effort at the present time to avert this event, must only serve to hasten its consummation. We believe it equally certain that, even were it desirable and for the best interests of the state to retain the increasing mass of the free coloured population in their present position with regard to the whites, the thing would be utterly and absolutely impossible.

The two races of men which now inhabit this state can only continue to occupy it in the relation of *master* and *slave*, or form by an *amalgation* a *mongrel race.* That the latter will not be the result arguments are unnecessary to prove. That the free blacks will not willingly continue in their present position, is proved by the fact that emancipation has ever been considered a stepping-stone to equality of social and political rights—by the change that is gradually being wrought in the character of the free coloured population of the state—and by the repeated declarations and resolutions of individuals and associations of the free blacks of Maryland and the adjoining states, that they are entitled to, and will claim even at the sacrifice of life, equality of political rights with the whites.

We conceive, therefore, if action upon this subject is advisible at this time, it ought not to be the action of parties or of sectional interests, but the action of the *whole white population of the state*, whose ultimate interest in this matter, *is and ever must be one and the same.* Let action also, if any is to be had, tend to such result as it is *practicable* to *accomplish*, and at the same time not incompatible with the best interests of any. Let the question be put at once to every white inhabitant of the state, What is the true policy to be pursued at this time with regard to the coloured population? And but one answer can be given. Colonization of the free blacks and the manumitted slaves. Enlarge upon the policy already adopted by the state, and which has for the past ten years been productive of the most beneficial results. The removal of the free blacks to the land of their ancestors, to the home provided for them at the expense of the state, where they can enjoy all the privileges and advantages of a free and independent government, administered by those of their own caste and colour, is the only course which sound policy dictates, and the only one consistent with justice to this long-suffering and much injured people—with the rights of the slave-holding citizens—with the best interests of the labouring white population—and with the true honour of the state.

☞ All communications intended for the Maryland Colonization Journal, or on business of the Society, should be addressed to Dr. James Hall, General Agent, Colonization Rooms, Post Office Building.

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THE AFRICAN TRADE—RIGHT OF SEARCH—SLAVE TRADE UNDER THE AMERICAN FLAG, &c.

As these subjects are daily assuming a very high degree of importance in consequence of the peculiar relations existing at this time between this country and England, it may not be improper to devote a few pages of our Journal to a brief statement of what few facts we may be possessed of from personal observation relative thereto.

We shall confine our remarks principally to the condition of trade on that section of the western coast extending from Cape Palmas to the Bight of Benin. Of the coast farther to the leeward, we have no means of information not already before the public.

Of the trade.—Previous to the last half century it is well known that the whole western coast, within the points above mentioned, was one vast slave mart. Not a harbour, river, bay, inlet, or even open roadstead, but afforded anchorage for vessels employed in this traffic. All the maritime powers of Europe were engaged in it. The 'Most Catholic and Most Christian Majesties' of France and Spain, and 'The Defender of the Faith,' of England, were the patrons and protectors of it, and participants in the profits accruing therefrom. The coast is now studded with forts and fortifications, erected specially for the safe and successful prosecution of this trade. The interest taken in this business by the Americans, was principally that of transporting the slaves from the barricoons and factories of the European merchant to the place of market. The articles principally used in this trade, with the exception of Tobacco from Brazil and the United States, were of English manufacture. Some few light articles of little value, and used principally as presents to the native chiefs, were obtained from Germany, France and Italy. As England abandoned this trade earlier than most of the other powers, and controlled many of the most important points of the coast where articles of her manufacture, heretofore used in the slave traffic, had become almost necessary to the native African tribes, she was very soon able to open a most lucrative trade with them for many important natural products of the country greatly in demand in the European market. These are the causes which first gave the English the advantage in the African trade. But they have retained this advantage from another cause than bare possession of territory and the fact of the almost exclusive demand for articles of English manufacture. Did none other exist, they

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