A perseverance in this refusal to form some treaty, allowing to a certain extent mutual Rights of *Search* or *inquiry*, will be be sure to result in injury to our commerce on that coast. If we increase our naval force there, they cannot without some friendly and definitive understanding, act harmoniously with the British squadron; sources of misunderstanding will constantly multiply, fomented by their diverse interests. If, on the other hand, our force is not increased and we continue to disregard the prostitution of our flag—annoyances to our merchantmen will more frequently occur—we shall no longer receive the cordial protection of the British cruisers, which has ever been rendered to American vessels, and without which the whole coast would be lined with robbers and pirates—measures would be taken gradually to exclude us from the native trade by commercial treaties with the chiefs and other means heretofore adverted to, and but a few years would elapse before we should cease to care what fate awaited vessels with the American flag on that coast. It would seldom protect American bottoms. Our present profitable, but small and unprotected commerce, would be at an end.

By an opposite course, and that too we conceive consistent with our country's honour, and with but justice to the British crown, very different results might be produced. Let but a sufficient force be maintained on the coast to deter American citizens in true American vessels from engaging in this traffic, and at the same time to see that the articles of whatever treaty may be made shall not be infringed upon by the British cruisers—let our laws be so framed, (or if so framed now, enforced,) that possession cannot be obtained of American vessels and American papers by others than *bona fide* citizens of the United States—let a treaty be formed with England or the European powers that shall at least permit a right to examine the papers of the vessel and determine their genuineness—let our government be represented in the court of mixed commissions at Sierra Leone to see that exact justice be done to the owners and masters of such vessels as shall claim a right to the American flag—let these measures be adopted, and what will be the result? Why, in the first place, it will deter American citizens from engaging in that traffic, which to our certain knowledge they have often done the past five years—it will effectually prevent the prostitution of our flag by slavers of other nations—our commercial vessels would be protected from vexatious detentions and seizures by other cruisers, as no hope would exist of illegal condemnation while our own country should be represented in the court of adjudication, and all the difficulties would be obviated which have arisen from misapprehension of our position, and from a jealousy on part of the officers of the British squadron that we were disposed to thwart their efforts—treaties of commerce would be made with the native chiefs without opposition, and a fulfilment of their conditions enforced—in fact we should obtain a permanent footing on that coast of which we could not hereafter be dispossessed, when the commerce of Africa shall assume an importance unsurpassed by that of any other section of the tropical world.

AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT MOOTED.

The 'Emancipator and Free American,' the leading abolition paper of the north, has the following article which we copy entire that our quiet Maryland readers may know something of what is going on out o'doors.

Although the language is less fiery than is generally used in the abolition prints, yet we consider its character the most seditious and mischievous of any thing we have lately seen. It will serve to open the eyes of the good people of this Union, to the fact that a body of people among us, numbering some four hundred thousands, are already speculating and determining upon the course to pursue in case of war and invasion. The first proposal, or threat, is, 'an organised neutrality' on their part, 'until the laws of the Union and of all the states have made us free and equal citizens.' This language too coming from the public organ of this body of aliens in the midst of us. Well might a member of the Colonization Convention exclaim, 'when my country is invaded, with whom can I leave my wife and children to go and fight her battles?' The answer is here given, 'an *organized* neutrality.' The systematic and persevering action on the part of the free coloured people of this state and Union, headed and incited as they are by the abolitionists and equalizers of the north, contrasted with the perfect apathy of the whites of the middle states, is most truly alarming. *Action* of some kind must be had and that right speedily.

If the nominally free blacks are to be admitted to the rights and privileges of citizenship? If the prejudices of caste and colour can be overcome, and the two races become amalgamated? Why let it be done at once, let it come as a matter of favour and grace from the whites, ere it is claimed or *seized upon* by the blacks as a matter of right. But let it not be supposed that they will remain in their present condition; the thing is impossible; they must either become citizens or cease to inhabit the country, any medium or temporising course is alike impolitic and unchristian.

Let the article speak for itself.

THE DUTY OF COLOURED AMERICANS.

The present circumstances of our country present a number of solemn questions for the decision of four hundred thousand free Americans, who are suffering under an undeserved disfranchisement.

1. The first is, whether they shall fight in support of the present government of the United States.

There is no class of our people more deeply impressed with sentiments of patriotism than our citizens of color. In the war of our revolution, they were most exemplary in their devotion to the country. The venerable Captain Fitch, the father of the Rev. Charles Fitch, once gave at an anti-slavery meeting in New Jersey, an account of the services of a colored company, of which he was an officer. They bore cheerfully the hardships of the barefoot march through New Jersey and the cheerless encampment at Valley Forge, in the winter of 1777–8, tracking the ground with their blood, for the defence of republican rights which they have never been allowed to enjoy. Said he, 'The only fault was their eagerness in time of battle, but nobody ever thought of seeing a colored soldier run away, or shrink from his duty. James Forten, one of the first of nature's noblemen,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

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

1842