before wholly monopolized by English trading vessels and the slave dealers.

Not only do the energetic and intelligent colonists vastly increase the exports of their little territory—concentrate the trade of the surrounding country—carry on open, fair and liberal commerce with vessels of all nations; but the colonies are a refuge and home to the American citizens visiting that coast from what course soever. They serve as regular ports of entry and clearance, where all important mercantile papers so essential in commercial operations can be obtained. They serve as hospitals for the sick and invalid seamen, who have ascended the baleful rivers on that coast. Again and again have I seen vessels steered into Mesurado roads by native kroomen, under the direction of the last surviving officer or crew of a vessel, which has ventured up the Nunez or Pongas, and which, had it not been for these colonies, would inevitably have been dismantled by the natives, and left to rot in their muddy creeks.

In cases of partial or total damage which, when for want of these colonies, the crews would fall a sacrifice to the African fever and the rough treatment of the natives, and when their voyage would be materially retarded or entirely broken up, the colonies have furnished a home for the unfortunate officers and seamen, and enabled the master to execute such documents as would secure insurance to the owner, or afforded such aid as to fit the vessel for the further prosecution of her voyage. In fact the American colonies have more than all other causes protected, fostered and increasing our commerce on the African coast.

With regard to the influence of the colonies, upon the missionary operations, I can answer that it is equally favourable and still more essential. It is a fact, that there has been a vast expenditure of life and money by the missionary societies of Great Britain, to establish missions in the various towns far to the windward of Sierra Leone, and every attempt without exception, has proved a failure. The attempt has not been a solitary one, but renewed from time to time for a period of years, and always with the same unhappy results. We can judge from this what would have been the inevitable consequence of the late attempt by American missionaries, on the coast line now occupied by the colonies of Liberia, where the natives were far more barbarous and less inclined to improvement. I am confident that they would have been attended with the like disasters. The advantages which the mission stations derive from the colonies are manifold, and must be obvious to every one. In the first place, their protection was absolutely necessary to the existence of the mission, to defend it from petty depredations and violence, as instance, the recent transactions at Heddington. Then, all the comforts and necessaries of life are alone secured by and through the labours of the colonists. By them their houses are built, and rendered tenantable, their services are always required in all domestic duties, even in health, and in sickness their services and assistance are indispensible. Independent of all this, the *most important*, the *most useful and most successful preachers and teachers in all the mission stations in Africa are the colonists themselves, under the superintendence of the white missionaries.* Coloured men are the most useful, and most efficient labourers in any cause or calling in Africa; with a less amount of inteligence and talent than the white man, they can effect more.

In answer to your queries as to the capability of the Africo-American for self-government, and the fitness of the territory of Liberia for the establishment of a civilized and self-supporting community; I feel it only necessary to state in general terms, what are my thorough convictions from an intimate acquaintance with all the colonies for the past eleven years, and for facts tending to show the correctness of any impressions, I refer you to the details and statistics of the colonies, which have been from time to time transmitted to this country and laid before the American public.

The Liberians have shown a capacity for maintaining a free and independent government—a capacity and disposition for a fair degree of moral and intellectual improvement. The soil of Liberia is one of the most productive in the world, and capable of yielding all the varieties of vegetables and all the great staple commodities of the tropics. The climate of Africa is one that will prove as favourable to the American emigrant as does the climate of our western states to the New Englander emigrating thither.

In fine, all that is wanting to form and perpetuate on the coast of Africa an independent, christian government, is an increase of the number of *select* emigrants, an increase for a certain period of the appropriation to each individual on his arrival and a general protection from the government of this country. But without these advantages, carried out to a much greater extent than heretofore, I am equally well convinced that the colonies at present established on the coast, will not be able to maintain themselves against the various adverse influences which are constantly operating against them; they will either be swallowed up in the mass of barbarians by whom they are surrounded, or they will claim and receive the patronage and protection of the English government."

The Hon. James Morehead, of Kentucky, addressed the Convention at considerable length, and with great power, warmth and energy, calling forth the warmest approbation of the audience.

F. S. Key also addressed the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Gurley, the Convention adjourned to meet at the Masonic Hall on Thursday evening, the 5th inst., at 7½ o'clock.

Masonic Hall, *5th May*, 1842.

Convention met in pursuance to adjournment.

Mr. Underwood again took the chair. Mr. Gurley made a warm and earnest appeal to the convention, stating fully the importance of the cause, and the necessity of vigorous efforts in its behalf. Mr. Key again proposed certain questions to Dr. Hall, with regard to the commerce of Africa—the slave trade—the condition of the American colonies of Liberia—the mission stations in Africa—and the mutual benefit of the colonists and missionaries to each other, and their co-operation in civilizing Africa: to all of which answers were given, as embodied in the report of proceedings last evening.

The Hon. William C. Rives then addressed the convention, and was listened to with the deepest interest, and greeted at the close with the warmest applause.

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