United States, removed from the moral and political influences of the whites, in the full enjoyment of that liberty to which they had ever been strangers, could exert a beneficial, much less a moral influence upon the native tribes with whom they are thrown into immediate contact. The thing appears to them inconsistent and paradoxical; nevertheless it is true, and perhaps the colonizing of our free coloured population on the coast of Africa, is the only means through which that people can ever be materially influenced, or to any great extent become civilized. All efforts made for the past two centuries by the various European powers to establish white settlements upon the coast have proved worse than fruitless, and the thousands who have fallen victims to the undertaking, unequivocally declare that the white man can never act efficiently in that hitherto ill-fated land. More has been done towards affecting the mass of the African population within the limits of the American colonies during their brief existence of twenty years, and with the limited means at the disposal of the Colonization Societies, than by the millions of pounds that have been expended and the thousands of lives that have been sacrificed through the long period of two centuries along the whole west coast of Africa. We say more has been done towards affecting the *mass* of the population, we mean towards working a radical change among *all classes* of the natives. Probably no class of people could be so well adapted to act upon and stimulate the native African to laudable emulation and exertion and to instil into him an ambition to become a civilized man, as the American colonists. And this from various causes, his physical adaptation to the climate is the first and most important quality which fits him for that work. Then the strong similarity of character of the two people will ultimately bring them to amalgamate, however repugnant it may be to the colonists at the present time. Also the grade occupied by the Americo-African emigrant with regard to the natives and the civilized nations of the world, is such as to stimulate the native African to the most determined exertion in order to equal or surpass him. The colonist constitutes a connecting link between the natives and the more refined nations of the earth. But among them, some possess intelligence and sagacity, the polish and refinements of life in a degree equal to any whites who have ever visited that coast, while others may be declared even below the natives themselves. They behold in the colonists a regular gradation from the very lowest of their own tribe, to the most intelligent and refined European. A way is therefore opened and the very stepping stones placed, whereby they can march to civilization and refinement, and not less, whereby they can ascend from the most gross and debased superstitions and idolatry to the conceptions and enjoyments of the pure and enlightened doctrines and precepts of christianity.

In the colonies the natives behold all the machinery of government in motion, all the various mechanic arts to a certain extent in operation, and all the customs and habits of civilized life more or less perfectly practised by the colonist, but a small degree removed from themselves. Every opportunity is offered and every inducement is therefore held out to the ambitious and intelligent native to imitate the example so plainly set before him and gradually to become a civilized and a christian man.

But we come now to speak of the most important ground on which a claim is made upon the action of the clergy in favour of the Colonization Society, viz: its indispensible aid in the establishment and successful prosecution of missions on the African coast. We say *indispensible*, not that we believe that all the various prosperous missions within and about the American colonies would be now abandoned, should further action on part of the friends of colonization cease, we believe not, many would hold out, and we trust with such aid as they would receive from the colonists already on the coast, form nuclei of powerful christian nations: but we say *indispensible*, from a conviction that no mission could ever have been established on the west coast of Africa, had it not been for the existence of the colonies, nor do we believe any one can even now be successfully prosecuted without the aid of colonists or coloured missionaries. The Colonization Society is in effect a Missionary Society (without departing from the plain intent of the declaration of its founders,) transporting to Africa all the elements and means for the most successful prosecution of the missionary scheme; in fact rendering the mission to west Africa a HOME MISSION, with none of the obstacles and perplexities necessarily encountered in other barbarous lands.

We spoke of the aid afforded by the colonies to missions as collateral or incidental, but would not be understood as declaring the colonization society or its agents as having ever been indifferent to their welfare and advancement. Very far from it. The first action of the Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, previous to founding the colony at Cape Palmas, was to treat with the secretary of the A. B. C. F. Missions upon the establishment of a mission within the territory to be procured. Direction was given to the agent (the writer of this article) to grant such lands in the territory to be purchased, as would be required by the missionary who went out in the society's vessel; and instructions were also transmitted from time to time enjoining it upon the agent to assist in all possible ways in the furtherance of the views and plans of the agents of the Missionary Board. Very soon after the founding of the colony, the following resolution was passed by the Board of Managers in consequence of an appeal for the increase of missions in the colony by their agent in Africa.

"*Resolved*, that this Board offer to the members of all religious denominations, every facility in their power to establish schools and enter upon the field of missionary labour, within the jurisdiction of Maryland in Liberia, so that colonization may be fully recognized, *not only as the means of restoring the descendants of Africa to the only land where they can be really free, but as the most efficient agent of civilization and the gospel.*"

Further official action by the Board with regard to the establishment of missions in Maryland in Liberia was unnecessary. The invitation had been given by the above resolution to missionaries of all denominations to enter the field of labour and to avail themselves of such aid in the prosecution of their undertakings as the society should be able to furnish; and the agents and physicians of the colony have from time to time been instructed to carry out the spirit and intent of the resolution.

This opportunity for establishing missions in Maryland in Liberia has

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)

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