prehension and fearful forebodings, by the true patriotic seer of our own land, by the friend of freedom and free institutions in all lands, and with gratification and delight by the enemies of our republic, as from this cause they predict its sure downfall and extinction. This is the spot in our fair sun, the death's-head at our feast, the canker-worm which gnaws at our vitals. Compared with this, all other causes which threaten discord or commotion, all incitements to sectional feelings and jealousies, all political schisms and party bickerings are but the affairs of a day, and pass off with the individuals which excite them. Compared with this question, the tariff, the distribution, the bank, the appropriation bills, and the thousand-and-one others, of minor importance, which 'fret and strut their brief hour upon the stage,' are but as nothing; they are the mere bubbles on the surface of the vast current which sweeps us onward to national glory and extended dominion.

Why then should this subject so important in itself and so threatening in its consequences, fail to secure the attention of those who direct, and to a great extent, control public opinion? Why is the press negligent in sounding alarm, where alarm alone need be sounded? And most of all, why does the press lag behind and fail to support the legislation of the state? Why does it not publish the good results that have followed the measures which the state of Maryland alone has adopted to ward off the threatening evil?

That the subject is of the deepest interest to all classes of people in the state, no one who has noted the important events of the past year can doubt. A convention of one class of people in the state, held to deliberate and act upon the subject of the coloured population, has convulsed the whole state to its center. Another class or classes instantly were up and protested against all that had been done, and all without declared object or definitiveness of purpose. What will be future action of the various parties of themselves, we are unable to say, but we predict that all agitation or action thereupon, either with a view to the perpetuity of slavery or its abolition, will but serve to produce disunion and discord, unless based upon the ground of *voluntary* manumission and *voluntary* emigration. In other words, COLONIZATION—as avowed and practised by the state of Maryland—of which cause and policy this paper is not only the professed exponent and organ, but the register of the results thereby produced. We conceive therefore that we have a claim not only to the favour and courtesy of the publishers of journals throughout the state, but their assistance and co-operation in promulgating the plans and policy of the state and of the State Society, and the extensive and vastly beneficial results which have thus far attended all the operations of the society,—and also in disseminating all true and correct information among our coloured population, that they may clearly see the advantages that will result to themselves and their posterity, by emigrating to a land where they can alone enjoy *political freedom* and all its attendant blessings.

We have therefore to request that the editors of journals individually throughout the state would but give to this subject that consideration which its magnitude demands, and we have no fear but we should receive their papers regularly in exchange, that many articles of interest in our journal

from Africa would be transferred to their columns, but we are confident we should receive many willing coadjutors and fellow-labourers in this glorious work who would bring to its aid talents and ability commensurate with its importance and magnitude.—Again we say,

"HEAR US FOR OUR CAUSE."

(From Africa's Luminary.)

The following: descriptive of their bargain and sale in procuring females, or wives, may be relied upon as correct. Particularly the ceremonies of the gree-gree bush; to our knowledge never before published; and which have cost us years of patient inquiry.

When an individual is desirous of getting a wife, or increasing his number of wives; he enquires among his neighbours, until he finds a female child, which has not been disposed of by its parents; and having gotten their permission to purchase it; he next applies to the King, and then to the Head-man, for the purpose of ascertaining whether these Dignitaries have any intentions of appropriating this infant to their households; and if either of them answers in the affirmative, he relinquishes his claim. It appears that the Chief Executive, and Heads of Departments, have the refusal, notwithstanding they too are expected to pay in the usual manner, for their several wives. This shows the existence of grades, and ranks; and is a wise measure, in that it keeps up the free circulation and commingling of plebian and royal blood. In all the aspects of political economy, these numerous affiliations on the part of Crowned heads, and State Functionaries, seem to tend to the strengthening of the stakes enlarging the borders, and enriching the parties, nationally and individually. The unsuccessful applicant, has now to begin anew: perhaps seeks for a wife in an adjoining town; or possibly having a partiality for the family in which his former selection was made, and ascertaining the mother to be *enceint*, he forthwith contracts for the issue, should it be a female, and all other preliminaries settled, he pays down a portion of the purchase money! At the fullness of time a child is born, and proves to be a male! This does not invalidate his claim; it remains good against the first female product; he waits patiently until finally all the parties are brought to rejoice over the consummation of their wishes in the birth of the desired object. Mutual congratulations are extended; and the father of the offspring reminds the purchaser, that this would be a proper time for him to show his liberality in an appropriate dash, or present, seeing that the parents are fulfilling their part of the contract. He then forks up, an additional amount; upon this important era—the birth of a future wife.—Time passes, and nothing can occur to mar or annul the bargain. The little infant is taught as soon as she can understand language, that she has been affianced to this person; and he is not altogether wanting in little attentions and marks of attachment, which increase as the young subject gains in years, and are by her reciprocated and duly prized.

This bargain and sale business, is a regular *chiseling* project; for the amount to be paid, is never a stipulated sum, and once commenced, has no ending. The parents feel themselves (according to usage), free to call on the purchaser, for pecuniary aid, whenever they get into straightened circumstances; or involved in a palaver. The father tells a fine story, about how prolific his wife is, how frequently she produces *woman child*;—and like mother, like daughter. So the future son-in-law must *dash* again. These contributions by way of paying for his espoused, consist of a few wash-bowls, bullock, musket, keg of powder, tobacco, a few yards of cotton

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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