While Congress was deliberating on the last of these important measures, another event occurred to which, for a few moments, I solicit your attention.

In the month of February, 1820, a small vessel left the harbour of New York on a voyage across the Atlantic. She was the American ship Elizabeth—her cargo, eighty-eight emancipated slaves—her place of destination, the Western coast of Africa. Her errand was not to discover a new continent—but to emancipate an old one. She was commissioned as the instrument—not of rapine and crime, but—of philanthropy, of religion and of peace. She went—not to snatch her offspring from the bleeding bosom of that injured continent,—but to restore to Africa a portion of her outcasts—not to invade and to conquer—not to ravage and destroy—not to pamper the superstitions of an idolatrous people—but to unfetter the human mind—to plant the standard of civilization—to lay the foundation of free and liberal institutions—to build temples to the living God. WHO PLANNED THE EXPEDITION? WHO CHARTERED THE ELIZABETH? WHO FURNISHED HER CARGO? The government of the United States, or the government of any state or teritory of the American Union? No sir,—but private individuals—philanthropists—Western and Southern men—men reared under the institutions of American slavery—themselves slaveholders—*they* were among the patrons of the noble enterprize. And now, without recounting the various expeditions of a similar kind which your Society has fitted out—allow me to say—that under the auspices of such men—under the patronage and control of a private association—with no other means of support than those which have been derived from the munificence of charitable individuals—with no other reliance for success than their own persevering, unabated, undaunted efforts—and the smiles of Heaven—from such a feeble beginning, in the course of twenty years, a colony has been planted, and is growing up on the African coast—a free, flourishing, happy colony of more than three thousand American emigrants, whose destiny, we trust, is beyond the reach of vicissitude,—and *that* the work, in great part, of American slaveholders. Let the work proceed as it has commenced—let it proceed, until the population of Liberia shall have swelled to the number of ten or twenty or fifty thousand souls. *Then* if it shall be asked, what slaveholding America has done for the benefit of mankind—for the mitigation of the direful curse of slavery—for the melioration of the condition of the African race, we may turn to that scion of a noble stock—an American colony of emancipated slaves. We may tell of the obliteration of the foulest blot on the character of our age—the traffic in human flesh. We may point to idols prostrate in the dust—to the tall spires of Christian temples glittering in the sun—to altars at whose feet, thousands of worshippers bow before the Christian's, not the pagan's God—to institutions founded on the basis of religion and of law—to a land teeming with the bounties of Heaven, and covered with memorials of industry and art—to a people educated, intelligent and free—in a word, to a continent rescued—or destined to be rescued—from the dominion of ignorance and barbarism and superstition and sin. *This* is a consummation worthy the ambition of every American philanthropist. I say nothing in this connexion of the eradication of slavery from our own soil. That is a subject of too much delicacy to be touched. But there are purposes connected with the operations of your Society, wholly independent of its influence upon our domestic institutions, sufficiently high and holy to rouse the efforts and animate the zeal of every man who aspires to the glory of becoming a benefactor of his species. There are purposes connected with its operations, to the fulfilment of which we are prompted by other and higher motives, than those of personal or even national interest—by our regard for the happiness of millions of our fellowmen—by our desire to enlarge the boundaries of the empire of civil and religious freedom—by our love to God and man. If there be on earth a nation bound more than any other by imperious obligations of self-protection and public policy—to say nothing of considerations of moral duty—to engage in an enterprize so full of benevolence and patriotism—ours is that nation. Here in the midst of us—in a land consecrated by the struggles of our forefathers in the cause of liberty,—exist a people, between whom and ourselves there never can, in the nature of things, be any possible affiliation—a people, cut off, as well by the distinction of colour, as by the immutable laws of social order, from all connexion or fellowship with ourselves—an inferior and degraded people—

> "Steeped in poverty to the very lips;
> Giv'n to captivity they and their utmost hopes,"

the descendants of an ancestry, as ignorant as themselves, torn by the hand of rapine from the embraces of their native land, and cast by our parent country upon her dependent colonies, against their consent and contrary to their vehement remonstrances,—of such a people, our tables of population inform us, there are two millions and a half within the limits of the American Union. Recognizing them in the light in which they are regarded by the constitution of the United States, and by the constitutions and laws of the States that tolerate slavery, they are private property. No human power can disturb by violence the tenure by which they are held. With them therefore, the Colonization Society professes, in the utmost good faith, to have nothing to do.

But closely connected by ties of blood, and bound up with them in a common destiny, is another class, less numerous but equally degraded—of coloured freedmen—to the efficacy of whose instrumentality in restoring their father-land, the attention of judicious and benevolent men has long been strongly directed. The same tables of population, to which I have referred, inform us that this latter class amounts in number to more than three hundred thousand souls. The proposition is to civilize Africa by colonizing *them;* and the question arises, can the object be accomplished? Is the achievement practicable? Is it within the compass of human agency, by the use of such means as the Society has resorted to, to establish and perpetuate a colony of coloured freemen on the continent of Africa?

It is no part of my purpose to discuss those questions now. The discussion would conduct me into a wide field of speculation. I choose to resort to fact instead of argument. The fact then is, that such a colony *has been established*—established without any material agency of the government of the United States—by a private association—with extremely limited resources, derived alone from the contributions of benevolent individuals—with a regularly constituted government—permanent, free, and, in regard

Foreign slave trade abolished. 1807—[March 25.] British slave trade abolished—Sierra Leone Company dissolved, and the settlement given up to government—African Institution formed. 1808: North American slave trade terminated." *(By a law passed, as we have seen, 2d March,* 1807.) "1810: The new government of Venezuela abolishes the slave trade. 1811: Slave trade made felony by Great Britain—Portugal renounces the trade out of her own territory—Chili abolishes. 1812: Buenos Ayres abolishes. 1813: Sweden abolishes. 1814: Denmark and Holland abolish. 1815: France abolishes—Portugal, on receiving a sum of money, abolishes to the north of the equator, and intimates that she will finally abolish in eight years. 1817: Spain, on receiving a sum of money, promises total abolition in 1820, to the north of the equator—Right of Search conceded by Portugal and Spain. 1818: Holland concedes the Right of Search. 1820: Slave trade declared to be piracy by Great Britain *in a treaty with the Arabs on the Red Sea*—AND BY THE UNITED STATES. 1822: The Spanish Cortes prohibits the slave trade. 1824: Slave trade made piracy by Great Britain."

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