The character of Governor Roberts may be given in a few words, and as he promises to occupy an important position in the history of his country, we will briefly state what are our impressions of him from a long acquaintance. His most striking and positive characteristics, are sagacity, sound judgment, and firmness of purpose. He is quick and apprehensive, but ever cool and deliberate in speech and action. His personal courage has been too often tested to be questioned. He is exceedingly popular with the colonists, although very quiet and taciturn, and few can boast of being in his confidence. His habits well fit him for the management of native palavers, and his military reputation gives him great weight with the chiefs. If Governor Roberts lacks any qualifications requisite for guiding the destinies of that people, it is that holy enthusiasm, that self immolation on the altar of his country, without which no man ever yet became the father of a virtuous nation.

Govenor R. has resided in the colony we think about fifteen years. We first saw him in Monrovia, in Dec. 1831, apparently a mere boy, but at that time high sheriff of the colony: which office he filled for some years to the satisfaction of the government and the people. He was then remarkable only for the prompt and correct discharge of his official duties and his taciturn habits. He was subsequently engaged in mercantile pursuits for a number of years. And we will venture to say, that no stickler for the incapacity of the coloured man to "take care of himself," ever adduced his intercourse with Mr. Roberts in support of his opinion. Governor Buchanan early saw on his arrival in the colony the importance of securing Mr. Roberts' assistance, and he judiciously made quite a sacrifice in order to induce him to give up his business and engage in the public services as store keeper and assistant agent. The principal part of the business concerns of the colony were entrusted to him during Gov. B's administration, and were conducted much to the satisfaction of that gentleman and the colonists generally. Since Gov. B's death he has administered the government of the colony, in which office he is now confirmed by the American Colonization Society. What results will be produced by his administration, time alone can determine. That he will well perform the duties of his office, that he will be a popular magistrate and a judicious business agent of the society we cannot doubt, but is he "*the one that should come—or look we for another?*"

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a 4th of July contribution of $5, from a firm old friend of the cause in Elkton, Mr. Frisbie Henderson, handed into the office by himself, as no collections were taken up at his church. Also from Rev. J. Peterkin, rector of All Saints Church in Frederick, $28 71.

☞ All communications intended for the Maryland Colonization Journal, or on business of the Society, should be addressed to Dr. James Hall, General Agent, Colonization Rooms, Post Office Building.

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"Nothing is more clearly written in the Book of Destiny, than the Emancipation of the Blacks; and it is equally certain that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government, so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit and opinion have established between them. Jefferson."

We call the attention of our readers to the brief sentence extracted from the writings of Mr. Jefferson, which we have placed at the head of our Journal. It contains two positions which we believe cannot be controverted. The one is in direct opposition to the principles and prejudices of a majority of the southern slaveholders, and the other as directly conflicts with the dreamy theories of the party abolitionists.

Where questions of such import arise, which can only be absolutely solved by time, great weight must be given to the cool and deliberate opinions of those who stand high in the estimation of mankind—men free from the trammels of prejudice, well acquainted with the subject, and whose success in life has evinced their deep sagacity, and stamped them as the intellectual giants of the earth. Among such men Thomas Jefferson stands pre-eminent, and his opinions upon all political questions have almost attained the sanctity of prophecy. In relation to this matter, all his feelings from birth, education and habits must have been on the side of slavery, so that if his opinion is gainsayed by the advocate for the perpetuity of slavery, it must be on the ground of his want of sagacity. Fifty years since he saw clearly that slavery must cease in this land—of the proximate causes of this consummation, he speaks not and affected not to know. They could not, they cannot be known until developed by time and circumstances. But he knew the remote causes were acting strongly and surely, and no barriers could prevent their producing their natural results. Mr. Jefferson's opinion has received the sanction of the world, and is now universal, save in the southern portion of our Union, "that slavery of the black race in these United States must ere long cease to exist."

Nor less true is the assertion that the black and white race can never live on terms of equality under the same government. This position is not only supported by opinions of the eminent politicians and philosophers of the present day, but all history declares its validity. *On terms of equality, two distinct races of men cannot exist together. They never did, and never will.*

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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