THE NIGER EXPEDITION.—The last wreck of the Niger expedition has been extricated from the fatal river: and the people at the Model Farm, with the relics of the property, have been brought to Fernando Po. To the very last the events have been such as to stamp the expedition with rashness and cruelty; even this supplemental expedition, greatly reduced, and profiting by the experience of previous disasters, suffered in proportion. Of eight or ten whites on board, but two were not laid up in sickness, the commander being one of the two. Again, it was a servant of the gentleman who warned Lord John Russel of the utter failure of the expedition, who helped to rescue the Wilberforce on returning from its second voyage; a black boy, who had learned the use of the steam engine on board Jamieson's trading steamer, worked the engine of the Wilberforce as it passed the Delta. The expedition has effected some discoveries. It has discovered that which was told to its projectors before it sailed from England, that the slave traffic which it was equipped to suppress in the Bight of Biafra had already ceased there; and that the legitimate commerce which it was to introduce had been rising and flourishing in the Bight for 20 years. It is also discovered, what was told to its projectors before it left England, that the site chosen for an agricultural settlement could not be approached without imminent risk to the lives of Europeans. Another notable achievement has been, that the expedition went up the river about two-thirds of the distance previously ascended by merchant vessels; and its crowning feat is, that in attempting to carry out the plan of the African Colonization Society, by carrying up merchandise, it has for the time expelled honest commerce—the very thing that it was to establish What next?—*Spectator.*

But the Niger expedition has yet effected good. Although disastrous has been its termination, like that of every other scheme of acting in Africa through the agency of white men, yet great good will grow out of it. The very fact of its failure when contrasted with the success of the scheme of colonization as practised by our societies, affords the most conclusive proofs of the superior expediency of our scheme over that of all others in effecting good to Africa and the African.

Just compare the results of this vaunted measure of the Great English Civilization Society, with that of our Maryland State Colonization Society. The former was concieved by the most illustrious men in the British empire, favoured by royal patronage, aided by any desirable amount of funds, its execution eutrusted to experienced and select of officers of the largest navy in the world—and after near two years of labour, disaster and death, the last wrecks of this ill-fated expedition have barely escaped to relate the tale of sorrow.

The plan of establishing a colony at Cape Palmas originated with a few citizens of Maryland, its execution was entrusted to one maimed individual, whose peculiar fitness for the task assigned him was an intimate acquaintance with Africa and a just appreciation of the African character. The whole outfit for establishing a colony, the purchase money, provisions, implements of agriculture, the mechanic arts and defence, together with the individuals to accomplish that great object consisting of twenty-five coloured Americans, were all shipped on board a small merchant vessel of 160 tons, and with an outlay less than the cost of the smallest vessel of the Niger expedition, and with no comparative sacrifice of human life, a colony of

free coloured Americans is established on the African coast!—Eight years have elapsed and that handful of pilgrims to their father land has increased to six hundred. A free constitution is adopted, laws are established and order reigns supreme—churches are built and the African priest officiates at the altar—schools are established and the black man teaches his kind. The hammer of the smith and the mallet of the carpenter resound in the villages of the barbarous natives, and the rich fields are covered with produce of the improved agriculture of the civilized man. Such is the colony of Maryland in Liberia, established and supported thus far at an expense hardly one-fifth of the outlay for the Niger expedition, and at no sacrifice of human life. Let the enemies of colonization pause and reflect.

DR. HALL'S ANSWERS TO MR. KEY'S QUESTIONS,

IN RELATION TO THE AMERICAN COLONIES OF LIBERIA.

(*Concluded.*)

A suitable agent at this place, with a proper naval depot and a small squadron constantly cruising on that coast, ready at any time to furnish requisite aid to our merchant vessels, would materially advance the interest of the American commerce; and were it certain that no measures would be taken by any other nation to form treaties of commerce along the coast or up the branches of the Niger and other large rivers with the native chiefs, to the exclusion of our commerce, as is done in the Senegal by the French, and in the Gambia and Sierra Leone and other settlements by the English, perhaps nothing more could be expected or desired. But should it be feared that measures may be taken to exclude our vessels from the free and open commerce with other points of the coast as well as those above referred to, it is practicable at this time to prevent the consummation of such a plan, and secure to American vessels for ever equal privileges with those of any and every other nation. Let a person well acquainted with the commerce of the coast, the points most important to be secured, and conversant, too, with the manner of making contracts and treaties with the native chiefs, be appointed and sent out in a Government vessel with power and instructions to visit every point of sufficient importance, and make a regular treaty of commerce with all the chiefs and headmen, securing to the vessels of the United States free and unrestrained right of trade within their several jurisdictions, not to be annulled by any future contract or transfer of territory to any other nation. This measure, if it did not forever actually secure to us a claim to this commerce (in common with other nations) would give us good grounds for contesting any question about it, and resisting encroachment.

No. 9. What protection do these colonies require?

The establishment of the above proposed agency, and the constant presence of any number of national cruisers on that section of the coast, with the understanding on the part of the native chiefs that they were in some measure for the protection and defence of the colony, would materially promote the interests of the colonies, and free them from any apprehensions from the natives. Up to the present time the colonists have defended themselves nobly and successfully when attacked by hostile tribes, yet the weaker colonies more recently established might be extirpated by a well concerted assault, and they actually need at least a show of succor and protection.

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