terest which the State felt in the subject, and of the importance attached to it; and at length the governor was directed, in 1816, when Dr. Finley was employed at Washington in his memorable enterprise of establishing the American Colonization Society, to correspond with the President for the promotion of that design. The assistance of the Senators and Representatives of the State was invoked to the same end.

The society was founded in December, 1816. It comprised many eminent individuals from the several states; was characterised by its freedom from sectional distinctions; enlisted the aid of men from every quarter of the Union, and was generally received and applauded as a beneficent and highly national undertaking.

Its design as set forth in an article of its constitution, was to act in 'co-operation with the General Government and such of the States as might adopt regulations on the subject.' Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee and Georgia were the first to respond to the invitation invoking their assistance. They passed resolutions recommending the subject to the country, and generally announced their accordance in the opinion, expressed by Mr. Jefferson, that it was desirable the United States should undertake the colonization of the free people of color on the coast of Africa.

The Society very soon after its organization, laid its plans before Congress, and solicited the countenance and support of that body. The best disposition was manifested towards it, and it may be set down to its praise, that one of the earliest and most valuable results of its labors was the adoption by Congress of more energetic measures for the suppression of the slave-trade. That trade was denounced as piracy, and subjected to the penalties of such an offence. Foreign States were invited to co-operate in the effort to destroy this trade by treating it in the same manner; and upon this foundation has eventually grown up that active and, it is to be hoped, effective hostility to the traffic which shall succeed in its ultimate abolition. In regulating this subject at that time, Congress passed an act by which the right of any State to dispose of captured Africans brought within the territory of the United States, in contravention of its laws was revoked, and the President was clothed with authority to restore these unfortunate beings to their native country.

Mr. Monroe, believing that the benevolent views of Congress, in reference to re-captured Africans, demanded that due provision should be made for their shelter, sustenance, and defence, temporarily at least, after their arrival in Africa, and that this could only be secured through the services of an agent empowered to superintend the subject by actual personal examination and assistance, interpreted this act to confer the powers which he deemed essential to its effectual application. This opinion he communicated to Congress by special message, and expressed his determination to proceed in the accomplishment of the objects of the law by co-operating with the Colonization Society in the selection of a station for the temporary or permanent residence of such Africans as might be brought within the description of the case provided for.

Proceeding still further in the same design, when the society had obtained possession by purchase of the tract of country since designated by the name of Liberia, Mr. Monroe directed that the re-captured negroes should be placed upon its soil, under the care of an agent of the government, with such supplies and assistance as might enable them, should they desire it, ultimately to attain the advantages which it was the purpose of the society to secure to those who might, under their auspices, voluntarily engage in the establishment of their colony.

Thus the colony of Liberia rose into existence, both as a home for re-captured Africans restored by the humanity of our government to their own country, and as a well organized community of free colored men, prepared and disposed to extend their useful arts, civilized laws, and christianity both along the coast and into the interior of Africa.

About half the states of the Union have expressed their decided approbation of the scheme of African colonization, and the citizens and legislature of Maryland have proceeded to plant a flourishing colony at Cape Palmas. Through the efforts and under the influence of the American Colonization Society, nearly twenty eligible tracts of country have been purchased between Cape Mount and Cape Palmas, and on many of them promising settlements established. The enterprise is demonstrated to be practicable and capable of indefinite extension. Though the colonies embrace but a few thousand emigrants, their salutary influence is widely felt and many thousands of the native population have sought their protection, submitted to their laws, and enjoy the advantages of their instructions. Able and disinterested citizens of the United States have from time to time devoted themselves to their interests, and under the authority of the colonization societies have assisted them to frame their social institutions, their governments and laws. They exhibit to the eyes of a barbarous people the model of a free, temperate, industrious, civilized and christian society. They have legislative assemblies, courts of justice, schools, and churches. Though having enjoyed in this country, but very imperfect advantages of improvement, and left it with small means, they have done much for themselves and much for civilization and christianity; have enacted laws for the extirpation of the slave-trade, and wherever their rightful authority exists executed them with vigor. They have successfully engaged in agriculture and lawful commerce. They have opened the way for many christian missionaries, of different communions to the heathen tribes, and afforded them protection and facilities in their work. In fine, Liberia and the Maryland settlements at Cape Palmas present themselves to this country and the world, not only as eligible asylums for our free colored population and for such as may become free, but as republican and christian states informed by the elements of indefinite growth and improvement; capable, duly countenanced, and guarded against the interference of unfriendly powers, of rising to honor and greatness, and of diffusing the influence of their laws and example over wide districts of Africa.

Adverting to the fact that the suppression of the slave-trade has been almost from the origin of this government an object of interest to our people, and that it is now still more earnestly sought for by enlightened nations; that this trade being nurtured mainly in the *barbarism* of Africa, may be soon checked and ultimately overthrown by the efforts of the colonies planted by our citizens; that the colonies now established have most obviously stimulated the industry of the natives, in their vicinity, have created a commerce which promises every day to become more valuable, and have auspiciously begun the beneficent labor of African civilization; that they furnish shelter and refreshment to our own ships and seamen, and are growing into importance as ports and depots for our naval squadrons; and above all, that they have been founded by the benevolence of our citizens and public authorities, with the laudable purpose of giving a safe and prosperous home to that portion of our population, who, however disqualified by our laws or our habits from being incorporated, with advantage to themselves, into our political society, are still entitled, as dependants upon our guardianship, to our sympathy and support—adverting to all these considerations the committee are of opinion that the colonies of Liberia and Maryland now existing, and those which may hereafter be established on the African coast, may

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XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)—May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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