As African colonization will be the most efficient ally, as it has already been, in accomplishing these great results; directly and powerfully aiding in the introduction of lawful commerce, and in the suppression of the slave-trade, your memorialists hope they may be excused for calling the attention of Congress to the protection they have been directed to ask in behalf of the infant and interesting settlements upon the coast. If, as friendly ports upon a distant and barbarous coast, where American trade to a considerable amount now exists, and is rapidly increasing in extent and importance, they afford the aid and facilities necessary to commerce, they are entitled, for the sake of commerce, to adequate protection.

If, as ports of the same description, they afford refreshment and succor to our public vessels cruising in those seas, and if by their influence and the advantages they afford to natives, they promote the abolition of the slave-trade, then are they also, for the sake of the abolition of the slave-trade entitled to adequate protection. That they are most important instruments in effecting both these great purposes is abundantly shown in all their past history, and will appear in the papers submitted.

It may be superfluous with these claims to protection, to say any thing of their own merits.

In fact, so closely connected is African colonization, with African commerce and the suppression of the African slave-trade, that any measure calculated to effect either of these objects necessarily promote the others. If therefore the proper and usual measures, such as are every where applied to the wants of commerce, are adopted for the protection of our citizens engaged in such pursuits on the African coast; and if the measures necessary for the final termination of the slave-trade are now put into vigorous execution, the incidental protection they will afford to the colonies, such as the presence of a small portion of our naval force and the establishment of commercial agencies and other necessary arrangements for the safety and convenience of our merchant vessels, will be all they require.

It should not however be forgotten that they have claims of their own, to the patronage and countenance of the General Government.

They originated in the humane policy of our laws. The act of 1819, required the President to discharge duties which made it necessary for him to send agents to reside on the coast of Africa, to receive and protect the native Africans delivered from our slave ships, or illegally brought into our country. With these agents were also sent the necessary means to enable them to fulfil these duties. Among the colonists now in Liberia, are these liberated Africans, and those on whom they have continually depended for protection. They are now civilized and useful citizens of a free and prosperous settlement. The President of the United States, in a special message to Congress, at the succeeding session, communicated the regulations and arrangements thus made for the execution of the act of 1819, and from that time to the present an agent has resided on the coast, and the instructions to our Naval officers visiting the coast, and their despatches to our Government, show that the protection of these settlements has been always an acknowledged national duty.

It should also be remembered that they have merits of their own, independent of the great services they are rendering in the aid and facilities they present to our vessels and citizens trading on the coast, and to the efforts of our Government in suppressing the slave-trade.

They afford to the States of the Union the means of removing their free coloured population. This has been long and ardently desired by many of them from motives of humanity to this class of their people, as well as of advantage to themselves. Applications have been made to Congress for

aid, in various ways, to the accomplishment of this object by several of the States. And your memorialists respectfully suggest that one measure particularly requested by the States of Virginia and Maryland, seems now to require consideration. Both these States have asked for the settlements of our colored people on the coast of Africa, now established and such as may be hereafter established, that our Government should enter into such negotiations and arrangements with other nations, as may secure the safety and neutrality of the colonies to be thus planted.

Mr. Jefferson's letters on that subject at an early period, show that he approved of this suggestion, and gave it his support, and directed some measures to be taken by our ministers at foreign courts preparatory to its execution. They have hitherto, from their very interesting character and situation, attracted the sympathy and respect of all nations, so that it has not been thought necessary to resort to such arrangements in their behalf. But the commerce of Africa now opening to the world is likely to present new and most important changes in the situation of that coast, where trade and the acquisition of territory for commercial settlements are now in considerable progress, so that it may be highly desirable to resort now, or at such convenient occasions as may present themselves in our negotiation with other Governments, to the proper and necessary mutual arrangements to secure the safety of all such settlements, and place both the trade between them and Africa, and our citizens and the coast, on just grounds of equal advantage.

Your memorialists conclude by expressing their hope that the views they have thus presented, and the proofs by which they are sustained, will enable the wisdom of our national legislature, to apply the means they may think proper to accomplish objects greatly interesting in many ways, to the prosperity and honor of our Government, and to the cause of human improvement and happiness throughout the world.

F. S. Key,
E. Whittlesey,
R. R. Gurley,
H. Lindsly,
H. L. Ellsworth,
Committee of Colonization Convention.

We copy the following letter from Gen. Scott as one of the signs of the times that cannot be mistaken. He is not only sound in doctrine, but has the sagacity to *come out* on this subject, which we predict will be the all absorbing one in the presidential canvass for '48, if not for '44. In fact, the relative position of the white and coloured population in the United States in the present age, is, even more than democracy, our distinguishing characteristic, and the only one which assumes a threatening aspect. The sooner the prominent political men come out upon this matter, the better for themselves and their country.

GENERAL SCOTT AND THE SLAVE QUESTION.

The following letter from General Scott, giving his views on the subject of domestic slavery, has lately been published. It is addressed to the editor of the Danville (Va.) Reporter:

Washington, *February* 9, 1843.

My Dear Sir,—I have been waiting for an evening's leisure to answer your letter before me, and after an unreasonable delay, am at last obliged to reply in the midst of official occupations.

That I ever have been named in connexion with the presidency of the United States has not, I can assure *you*, the son of an ancient neighbour and friend, been by any contrivance or desire of mine; and certainly I shall never be in the field for that high office unless placed there *by a regular nomination.* Not then, being a candidate, and seeing no near prospect of being *made* one, I ought perhaps, to decline troubling you or others with my humble opinions on great principles of State rights and Federal administration; but as I cannot plead ignorance of the partiality of a few friends, in several parts of the Union, who may by possibility, in a certain event, succeed in bringing me within the field from which a Whig candidate is to be selected, I prefer to err on the side of frankness and candor, rather than, by silence, to allow any stranger unwittingly to commit himself to my support.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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