mission seems threatened. We look anxiously around for those who would take our places. Amongst our converts we find none qualified for this purpose—and to AMERICA we look almost in vain. Nearly three years have now elapsed* since one missionary came over to help us! Our thoughts are often turned, in this dilemma, to the *West Indies*, from whence we might reasonably hope that labourers better fitted to withstand the climate could be obtained. But when, or how, or by whom, shall such persons be brought to us? In these trying circumstances, it is sweet to know that the cause is God's, and that he will take care of His own cause."

"In the last communication which the Committee have received from the Rev. Dr. Savage, he remarks—"I have had of late two attacks of greater severity than any since my visit to America. It is thought by others that I ought to abstract myself from my cares and duties for a time. One consideration that will operate in favour of it, will be to procure, if possible, suitable coloured assistants or teachers from some quarter; men who will be capable of keeping up a station in case of the death of the present incumbent; at any rate, till a successor can arrive from AMERICA. It is the general opinion among us, that the safety of the mission, and the best interests of the cause, if not its ultimate success, depend upon our procuring, at the earliest date, such aids—*aids* they must be, and no higher relation can they sustain for years. The colony, and our schools, cannot for years to come, afford such assistance. From the colony, we have no such expectation."

We are sorry to find an open and express avowal of such sentiments with regard to the capacity of the coloured race, by the oldest and most prominent missionary of the Episcopal Church in Liberia, in an official communication to the Board of Missions, and to see the same endorsed by them, and embodied in their "Annual Report."

With a knowledge that such are the sentiments of their missionaries in Africa, we are at a loss to conceive why the Board of Missions look farther for the *causes* of "difficulties between the missionaries and colonists," of which they speak in another part of their Report as having existed. Their conduct towards a people held in such estimation, with whom they have daily intercourse, and who themselves have any claim to equality with their fellow-men, or self-respect, must of necessity be such as to cause "heartburnings, envyings and strife." The inhabitants of Liberia have been forced by the prejudice and intolerance of a dominant race, to seek a refuge in the inhospitable climate of Africa, and there at least they may hope, not to be doomed to a secondary rank in the scale of being. Even if the assertion was true that coloured men from any quarter could be capable of sustaining no higher relation than *aids* to the white missionary for years, we are unable to divine what good could result from spreading it before the world. But however sincere Dr. Savage might have been in his conviction of the moral or intellectual incapacity of the man of colour and his consequent unfitness to act as principal in the Episcopal mission; yet we are far from admitting the correctness of his position. We have long maintained, and we believe we are supported by facts—by history, THAT THE MOST EFFICIENT AGENTS, THE MOST RESPECTABLE AND POPULAR GOVERNORS OF COLONIES, AND THE MOST SUCCESSFUL MISSIONARIES,

*The Rev. Mr. Hazlehurst arrived subsequently to the date of this letter.

PREACHERS AND TEACHERS THAT HAVE LABOURED IN LIBERIA SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT COLONY, HAVE BEEN COLOURED MEN. We make the assertion, broad and unqualified, and its truth must be admitted by every unprejudiced man who will make himself thoroughly acquainted with the colony for the past twelve years.

If it is alleged that the assertion is too general to admit of investigation, and intangible, we hesitate not to compare the more prominent actors in Maryland in Liberia, one by one, and appeal to any one acquainted with the individuals for the justness of our conclusions, even to Dr. Savage himself, and we trust we may be excused for introducing the names of individuals which have often been before the public, as our only object in so doing is to prove the correctness of our position. We would ask Dr. Savage why would not Mr. Polk and B. V. R. James, coloured teachers and assistants in the A. B. C. F. Mission, well compare for efficiency, ability, or purity of life with Messrs. Byron, Appleby and Perkins, white assistants in the Protestant Episcopal Mission? We know not. Again, take the Rev. Mr. Payne, one of the white principals of the Episcopal Mission, (and we believe, if we are to judge from reports, the most successful one in that mission;) and in what respect as a preacher and missionary does he excel the Rev. A. D. Williams, at present the coloured principal of the Methodist Mission at Cape Palmas. Both of these gentlemen are characterized for their extreme amiability, mildness and devotion to the great cause in which they are engaged. Then take two who have often been compared, and between whose moral constitutions there existed the strongest resemblance, viz: the Rev. J. L. Wilson, the principal of the A. B. C. F. Mission at Cape Palmas, and the Rev. John Revey, late colonial secretary—both Calvinistic clergymen and both long labourers in Africa. The former, well known throughout the United States and Africa for his devotedness to the cause of African christianization, and of whom we have often had occasion to speak as one of *the best* men that it was ever our good fortune to know; yet we cannot doubt that he would express deep satisfaction in the assurance of *living* and *dying* like John Revey. We fear not to hazard the assertion, that any one well knowing the character and standing of these two men, will pronounce a comparison of them in point of intellectual capacity and moral worth, just and obvious.

Then compare Dr. Savage himself, with all the advantages of an academical education at Yale, the subsequent acquisition of two liberal professions and the benefits attendant upon free intercourse with the prominent men of both; with the coloured physician of the colony in which he resides, Dr. McGill: who spent but three years in his preparatory studies and obtaining his doctorate, and that too under the disadvantages necessarily attendant upon the prosecution of his profession in this country; and if professional success is to be considered the criterion of merit, in whose favour does the scale preponderate? Certainly the disparity between them is not so great that either could object to the comparison.

Of the female missionaries and teachers in Liberia, let us enquire who among the many intelligent, accomplished and pious ladies that have solemnly devoted themselves to this hazardous field of labour, possesses the

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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