British traders on the coast of Africa, were referred to in conversation more than once, between his lordship and the undersigned, in the course of the past year. On those occasions, the precise relations between the Government of the United States and Liberia formed a subject of inquiry on the part of the Earl of Aberdeen. All desirable information on that point has, the undersigned believes, lately reached Lord Aberdeen, in a note of 25th September last, addressed by Mr. Upshur, the Secretary of State of the United States, to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington; and the undersigned deems it unnecessary to dwell on the subject.

The history of the Liberian settlement, as contained in Mr. Upshur's note, will sufficiently account for the interest felt by the American Government in its prosperity. It was founded by a peculiarly interesting class of emigrants from the United States; it affords a convenient means of making a proper disposition of slaves captured by American cruisers, and of persons of African descent desirous of returning from the United States to the land of their fathers; and it has ever been regarded as a powerful auxiliary in the promotion of objects which the Government and people of America have greatly at heart—the entire suppression of the slave-trade, and the civilization of the African continent.

That an independent settlement of persons of African descent, owing its origin to the impulse of christian benevolence, and still controlled by the same benign influence, should be peculiarly fitted, in some respects, to accomplish these objects of its establishment, is obvious in itself. The testimony of several respectable officers of the British navy might be adduced in proof of this fact, that something valuable has been already effected towards these great ends, under the laws or influence of its settlement.

The policy of the United States in reference to extra-continental possessions, has not allowed them, had it been otherwise deemed expedient, to extend that kind of protection to the Liberian settlement, to which colonies are entitled from the mother country by which they are established. It has, in consequence, been compelled to rely on its intrinsic right to the common protection and favour of all civilized nations; and thus far, for the most part, without being disappointed.

The undersigned forbears to enter much at large into the particular matters discussed between the Liberian authorities and the British cruising officers. The right of the Liberian Government to maintain their jurisdiction over Bassa Cove and the dependent territory, forms the most important of them; and the denial of that right by several British officers is the most serious difficulty, of a political nature, which the Liberian settlement has had to encounter. If the principle assumed by these officers should be sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government—namely, that the Liberian settlement can, by treaty with the native chiefs, acquire no jurisdiction over territory on any part of the Coast of Africa where an individual has previously established a factory or traded with the natives—it will become impossible for the settlement to make any further addition to its domain, or, in fact, to maintain itself in its oldest establishments.

This principle, it would seem, can rest on no other foundation than that the settlement of Liberia is a private enterprise, like that of an individual trader, and entitled to none of the rights of a political community. The auspices under which it was founded, the countenance it has received from the Government of the United States, the public objects of the settlement, and the singularly meritorious nature of the enterprise, will, the undersigned truests, prevent Her Majesty's Government from giving its sanction to this principle—a principle which seems to deny to the civilized and christian settlement of Liberia those public rights which would be recognized as belonging to the barbarous native hordes of the African continent.

The undersigned rather hopes that Her Majesty's Government, from the interest which he is sure will be felt in the prosperity of such a settlement, will be able to extend its decided countenance to an infant community possessing so many claims to the sympathy of all christian powers. The undersigned greatly fears that, if the right of this settlement to act as an independent political community, and, as such, so enforce the laws necessary to its existence and prosperity, be denied by Her Majesty's Government, and if the naval power of Great Britain be employed in protecting individual traders in the violation of those laws, the effect will be to aim a fatal blow at its very existence; to invite the assaults of slave traders and the aggressions of other powers; and to destroy the wholesome influence of Liberia over the natives. These are evils too great, in the estimation of the undersigned, to be willingly caused by Her Majesty's Government, on any grounds set forth in the correspondence above alluded to.

Lord Aberdeen will also observe, that the fact that there was any contract on the part of private traders prior to the cession of Bassa Cove to the Liberian Government, is denied by Governor Roberts in his letter to the American Colonization Society. But the undersigned cannot think that the substantiation of this fact will be deemed of great importance by Her Majesty's Government.

If the undersigned is in an error in supposing that the correspondence alluded to in the beginning of this note is already in the possession of Her Majesty's Government, copies of it will be immediately furnished to Lord Aberdeen, on his expressing a wish to that effect.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Lord Aberdeen the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

EDWARD EVERETT.

The EARL OF ABERDEEN, &c. &c. &c.

Mr. Everett to Mr. Upshur.

[EXTRACT.]

LONDON, *February* 3, 1844.

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I received last evening, from Lord Aberdeen, a formal reply to my note of December 30th; which I herewith transmit. It contains the substance of the instructions to the British cruisers on the Coast of Africa, in reference to the Liberian settlements.

Lord Aberdeen to Mr. Everett.

[ENCLOSURE.]

FOREIGN OFFICE, *January* 31, 1844.

The undersigned, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note of Mr. Everett, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, dated the 30th ultimo, calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to some discussions which have arisen between the authorities of the settlement of Liberia, on the western coast of Africa, and the officers of Her Majesty's cruisers on that station. The undersigned had previously received from Mr. Fox the note from Mr. Upshur to that minister, which is referred to by Mr. Everett, and which explained the nature and objects of the settlement of Liberia—a subject upon which Her Majesty's Government had sought information from that of the United States.

The undersigned begs to assure Mr. Everett that Her Majesty's Government highly appreciates the motives which have induced the American

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