Where are the once numerous settlers and their descendants? Were the Maroons? Of the remnant that remains, what is their position? Have they grown wealthy? Do they conduct the commercial operations of the colony? Do they cultivate the soil? Do they fill important offices of trust under government? What is the intellectual character of the place? We suppress the humiliating answers.

If the examination should be extended to the influence which the colony at Sierra Leone has exerted upon the slave-trade, the same deplorable inefficiency will be apparent. The natives, so far as all considerations of a moral character are concerned, remain the same that they were fifty years ago; and the slave-trade, despite the vigilance of the police, is secretly but extensively carried on, in and around the peninsula. It would be proper also to ascertain the exports of the colony, and the proportion of its productions to the consumption. The chief exports from that place, are timber, hides, camwood, palm oil, gold, and ground nuts. But these are almost exclusively obtained from the natives. Correct answers to these questions will indicate infallibly the progress of the colony.

What has been the cause of this failure—this death of so many high hopes and cherished expectations? Without taking upon us to assign every cause, we do not hesitate to assert that the inefficiency of the colony for the purposes designed by its founders and patrons is, up to this time, owing in part, to the method and constitution of former local governments.

Until recently, throughout every department of the government, the offices were almost exclusively filled by those who had no permanent interest in the colony. The permanent residents, settlers, Maroons and liberated Africans, were almost systematically excluded from any share in the government. They were thrown quite in the back ground. All laudable ambition suppressed, every noble and manly aspiration smothered. There was no scope for that self-confidence and self-respect, the offspring of a feeling of equality, and which is so necessary to an honorable course.

Inferior in every thing, in intellect, in pecuniary resources, and in official power, to another class amongst them, they gradually settled down to the position of obsequious attendants, until the grades of society founded upon color, became as marked and distinct as in the northern States of America. It is exhiliarating, however, to find that a change is taking place in this respect, in Sierra Leone. There appears to be a growing disposition on the part of the Europeans now resident in that colony, to admit the colonists to a share in the management of affairs, and to meet them on terms of civil equality. The different missions there are prosecuting their heaven-born enterprise with a laudable energy; and the efforts and plans of the Wesleyan Mission especially, are entitled to the highest praise, and henceforth the movement of the colony must be onward towards the point first aimed at by its patrons. We trust the revolution thus set on foot will be completed.

The American Colonization Society commenced active operations in 1820 with only eighty-eight emigrants. In 1821, forty-five more arrived at Sierra Leone. In 1822, the remnant of these two companies removed to Cape Mesurado. They had one white agent amongst them as chief superintendent of the colony. Small annual immigrations continued to arrive, but such in the first years of the colony was the fatality of the climate and the number of casualties, these importations served rather to keep up the original number than to increase it. The colonists were early warned against the delusive expectation of governmental patronage; they were constantly exhorted to rely upon their own resources, and their own unaided energies. A plan of government was formed and committed in all its details, almost entirely to the hands of the colonists. The agent amongst them was rather

an adviser than a controller. Every thing in the history of the past taught them the folly of looking back to the land whence they had come out. The assistance afforded them by the Society, extended no further than to the purchase of land, and a meagre supply of articles of necessity.

The colonists, thus thrown upon their own resources, felt their responsibility. They saw at once that their destinies were in their own hands—that to falter or to hesitate, was to sink. It was in the nature of their peculiar circumstances to inspire with ardor and to call forth into active exercise all their ingenuity and judgment. In all their regulations, civil and political—in all their relations with the natives, they looked not merely at temporary advantages, but chiefly at permanent results. In fact, they saw that in order to rear a solid and durable edifice, they must dig a broad and deep foundation. Having all their hopes staked upon the success of the experiment—chained to the place by circumstances entirely beyond their control, they cheerfully resigned present advantages, when, temporary and limited in themselves, they exerted an unfavorable influence upon future prosperity. Hence they became at an early period of the colony most uncompromising enemies of the slave trade: and although we will not assert that this traffic has never found an advocate amongst us, nor that some few has not criminally abetted it; yet we do not hesitate to challenge the instance of another colony, in the vicinity of which it is so completely crippled. They saw that this trade, the scourge of the natives, would prove a curse to the colony, and effectually prevent its improvement; they therefore determined to put it down at all hazard. Wherever they obtained a right to do so, they beat down the baracoon, knocked the chain from the slave, and proclaimed liberty to the captive. The natives began to understand the nature of the colonial institutions, and regarding the colony as an asylum, thousands of helpless and oppressed sought refuge within its borders. The colonists gladly hailed them as important accessions to their strength, and encouraged them in all the pursuits of an honorable life.

The stale prediction of those who oppose our elevation has been—that we would be found incapable of self-government. Pausing here only to remark that Africa with its hundred millions, (every where possessing a government and laws) has ever been a standing refutation of this malignant vaticination; as if guided by Heaven, the American Colonization Society at once hit upon an expedient that will, we trust, effectually wrest this weapon from the hands of our enemies. The government was at once lodged in the hands of the people. The idea of government in Liberia will be ridiculed by those in whose minds pompous titles and fat salaries are inseparably connected with good government. We will not argue to so obvious an error, nor cite instances to show that anarchy and misrule have generally been in proportion to the elevation of the governing above the governed. We will only invite an examination of our social, civil, and political order, our legislature and our halls of justice. This state of things is the result of early habits of self-government—of laws made and executed by men whose last hope was involved in the experiment. Society here has never been (and God grant it may never be) split into two orders—one to govern, the other to be governed; the one dominant, the other suppliant. Political equality elevates and expands the mind and nerves the arm, servility enervates both. That people will be most incapable of self-government that is longest debarred from it.

(*Concluded in our next.*)

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)

1844