We know nothing about their constitution, but it is reasonable to suppose it is republican in all its features. The officers under it are elected to serve two years. We are informed, that one of the most prominent articles in the constitution, is the prohibition, under any circumstances, of spirituous liquors being landed in the State.

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Mr. Herald:—I have read, with no little surprise and astonishment, an article in your last issue above the *incog* "Lott Cary," in which there can be no doubt—the public sentiment of Liberia—with respect to our foreign relations, and the wish to obtain from other states a recognition of our independence—is most egregiously misrepresented. The people of Liberia entertain no such sentiments, or wish, as represented by the writer.

I am aware that a few, and only a few of our commercial men have raised objections to some of the treaty stipulations entered into between this government and Great Britain: by which the trade of Liberia is thrown open to honorable competiton, and in justice and gratitude; what is there in this to complain of?

I am neither statesman nor lawyer, Mr. Herald; and, therefore make no pretensions to a knowledge of state policy, or the abstruse science of international law. But let us for a moment, examine—according to reason and common sense—what this newly fledged "Lott Cary" represents as "a topic of peculiar importance." He tells us "the question now is: shall Liberia invite other powers to enter into commercial relations with it? on every hand he asserts, an opinion is expressed decidedly in the negative; and unless he is very much mistaken—as indeed he is—it is not the wish of the people of Liberia that other powers be asked to acknowledge the independence of Liberia," Monstrous! Monstrous!! I would advise, Mr. Herald, that "Lott Cary" transplant himself, with as little delay as possible, to the Empire of Japan, and exert his powers to counteract *there* the measures of Russia and the United States to establish friendly international relations.

What, Liberia should not ask to be admitted into the family of Nations!—to be recognized by all!!—and with all establish friendly commercial relation!!! the sentiment is superlatively ridiculous:—exceedingly preposterous. Civilization blushes at the idea of such a derogation from the rules of national etiquette.

Why, in all conscience, should Liberia shut her self up within her own limits, refusing all friendly diplomatic correspondence with other nations? Who can desire such seclusion? surely not the people of Liberia.

"Lott Cary," however, would have "Liberia to be friendly with the entire civilized world." Yet, forsooth, he rejects the only course by which that friendship can be established, and friendly intercourse maintained. He tells us further that "the people of Liberia will scarcely ever consent to any treaty containing stipulations like those of, or between this Government and England and France. "No treaty of same tenor can be ratified by the Senate." Albeit, but why not? "Lott Cary" is not careful to give the reasons. I shall therefore, pass it over as a mere assertion—vague hypothesis. But Mr. Herald, I would like to be informed, what is the necessary affinity between commercial treaty stipulations, and the recognition of independence? What dependence has the one upon the other? an acknowledgment of independence, as I understand it, is simply an act of courtesy which one sovereign state has a right to expect from another; and by which the new state is recognized as possessing the right to exercise sovereign and independent powers, subject to no control, but its own authority and laws, and thus admitted to friendly correspondence. This does not necessarily, involve commercial treaty stipulations. But why not, Mr. Herald, enter into fair, honorable, and



reciprocal commercial relations with those powers that will acknowledge Liberia's independence! Common sense answers decidedly in the affirmative.

Now, I have nothing to say against the policy, as a policy, of restricting the commercial intercourse, with Liberia, of those powers that doggedly refuse to extend to her "that comity which marks the friendly intercourse of civilized and independent communities" this is a natural right; and a proper respect for our independence and sovereignty reasonably suggests such a course of policy, and the people who are interested in this restriction have no right to complain of it. After all, Mr. Herald, I am inclined to think this is the veiled sentiment of "Lott Cary," and what he wishes to inculcate, perhaps he will tell us plainly. Yours, &c. Elijah Johnson.

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Education is indispensably necessary to insure the Stability of the Republic.—Our readers need not now be informed, that the people of Liberia are behind those of every civilized country, in point of intelligence, and the means necessary for the education of the rising generation:—and though Christian friends in the United States, have for a series of years, established and supported primary schools in Liberia, the fact is obvious, that the principles upon which these schools are established, partake directly of a missionary character—the schools are supported with the avowed object to raise up missionaries for the enlightenment of the millions of Africa's degraded sons. In itself the object is a noble one and well worthy the consideration and benevolence of the good and pious throughout christendom. A doubt cannot exist as to the great and important benefits which it is possible may accrue to Africa if such schools are properly sustained,—if qualified persons—persons we mean who are capable of spelling the name of their country—are employed as teachers. In many instances, it cannot be disguised, the teachers of some of the schools, supported by missionary societies, are utterly incapable of explaining sentences of the most ordinary import. We do not make these remarks from ill will to any person: nor can we pretend to say, that these teachers may not learn those placed in their care, something good—but we are, we confess, extremely credulous as to any real benefit Liberia may derive from her children being trained up under such unfavorable circumstances. We admit, and we do so with the greatest pleasure, that there are a few schools in Liberia which cannot by any possibility be placed in juxtaposition with those we have just referred to. They claim, at least a few of them do, a respectable position—they have as teachers, gentlemen of honor and intelligence, and well qualified "to teach the young idea how to shoot," and we confidently assert, that the most promising young men in our city, have received their instruction in these schools. Education would certainly be at a very low ebb in Liberia, if a contrast could not be made.

But we will take up the train of argument we set out with,—that all the schools in Liberia are under the control of missionary societies, whose ostensible object is, to raise up teachers, to disseminate Christianity and civilization among the aborigines of the country. This will certainly be an advantage to Liberia, as it will be raising from deep degradation our heathen brethren, they will be taught the beauties of Christianity, and learn to know that he is fit for the enjoyment of the benefits of a free government. In fact, the savage will stand disenthralled—redeemed, and as a man stand boldly forth to defend the honor and interests of his country. We admit that missionary operations are great auxiliaries in the hands of Providence for the redemption of Africa from her low and degraded state:—and we are willing to admit further, that without the assistance of missionaries, it is doubtful, if Liberia

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