it was necessary therefore, to establish such a form of government as to enable one man to have almost entire control but leaving it in the power of the people's representatives to prevent any encroachments upon republican rights—moreover the time of that one man's service, was so limited that even were the representatives false to their trust, the people would have an opportunity of replacing him by another before their rights as freemen could be seriously trampled upon. The right man to fill that office, was found in one who for years had filled the office of Colonial Governor, not only was he well qualified to perform the duties of an executive, but a personal and intimate acquaintance with every individual at all qualified to fill the minor offices enabled him to recommend for appointment and to appoint when ever it became his duty so to do, those most competent to perform the duties requisite, and over whom he could exercise a complete control. But Liberia has somewhat changed since then, political strife has brought new men into action, warmed into life talents that were hitherto dormant, and as parties must have some principle of action by which to regulate their movements and commend themselves to public confidence so these parties in Liberia have found it necessary from time to time, to proclaim themselves in favor of some movement not before proposed by the other. Lately the opposition party or the party not in power, has declared itself in favor of a confederated system. Those who opposed the annexation of Cape Palmas to the Republic as a county, did so, because strongly in favor of a confederation. There were others however, and they, it may be said without hesitation, were by far the best informed and most intelligent, who advocated her annexation as a county. They thought it unreasonable to ask of the Republic her admission as a State, when her population, wealth and intelligence fell so short of either of the Republic's three existing counties. Now it is not likely that she will seek admission unless actually forced to do so, until the proper time arrives for her admission as a State. It is therefore, to be hoped, that the time may soon come, when the now unadorned blue field of the Cape Palmas flag will be ornamented in its centre by the lone white star. I care not to see a star for every State, but would glory in seeing that lone star banner waving proudly over every point along the western coast of Africa. As the lone star guided the wise men of old, to the saviour of the whole human race, so may that of Liberia's banner guide and direct the returning sons of Africa, to the redemption and political salvation of the millions of that continent.

(From the New York Colonization Herald.)

LETTER FROM LIBERIA.

The writer sailed from Baltimore in a merchant vessel, the Harp, which, for lack of using heavy anchors, went ashore and was wrecked. His letter gives the light and shade, and may do good.

MONROVIA, *Aug.* 27, 1854.

DEAR SIR: I take the liberty, by this favorable opportunity, to inform you of all the events which have occurred to me since I left New York. I left Baltimore on the 12th of June, in the bring Harp, as a cabin passenger, owing this favor to the kindness of Dr. Hall.*

In the early part of the voyage we had really a pleasant time, good weather, and favorable wind; but after the lapse of a fortnight the weather changed, became stormy, and we had contrary winds.

*The Editor of this paper merely loaned Mr. Randamie twenty-five dollars to enable him to secure a cabin, instead of a steerage passage in the Harp, a vessel in which we were in no way interested.

The Captain, (Cambden by name,) treated the passengers in general very rough, if not inhumanly, particularly those who were in the steerage, partially feeding them; food consisting of corn-meal, pork, and impure water, without any variation whatever; and if any one was sick it was difficult to procure from him a dose of medicine. The passengers complained bitterly against him; three of them, one man and two children, died during the passage, and one the day after our arrival here. After having suffered through a passage of fifty long days, we dropped anchor off Cape Messurado, in the evening of July 31st, indulging the hope of landing betimes next morning. But, alas, "Man proposes, but God disposes." About 1 A. M. a very strong seawind blew from the southwest, bringing torrents of rain; the sea raged very boisterously, and despite all the efforts of the Captain and mate to save the vessel, she stranded about 2 o'clock under a heavy storm. After being driven ashore, it being very dark, not knowing where we were, you can easily imagine our anxiety. In the morning, however, we were somewhat relieved by discovering our position. The natives living on that part of the beach soon came off to our assistance. We were successful enough to get the boats into the sea, and with great danger we landed from the unfortunate Harp, thanking God, who so unexpectedly and mercifully preserved us. After it became a little more calm, the Captain engaged laborers to save as much of the cargo as possible, in which he partially succeeded. I was so fortunate as to secure the greater part of my effects. The other passengers, who had all their goods in the hull of the vessel, have suffered *considerable* loss. They are here in a very *distressed* condition. I commend them to your kindness.

On the first day of August we all came under the care of Mr. H. W. Dennis, Colonization Agent here, who has been very kind to us, doing everything to comfort us, and alleviate our distress. The emigrants for Bassa having heard of the recent mortality at that place, cannot be induced to go there; they have resolved to stop here, and Mr. Dennis is now trying, according to their own desire, to provide for them here.

I regret to say that, although I anticipated very little, I have experienced a degree of disappointment. I do not refer to the splendor and luxury of Monrovia, for, considering the youthfulness of the place, and the means the people have had, I could not reasonably expect any more than I have found. The people have undoubtedly done well; but I allude to the difficulty of making a livelihood, unless one understands the cultivation of the soil, or some trade; not speaking directly personally, as I was aware, when in the United States, that the first year generally must be lingered away in the fever of acclimation. I notice that in general the business done here is not sufficiently extensive to make assistance required; and even if required, the remuneration is such as hardly to allow a livelihood. Mechanics and farmers generally can be well situated, provided they have the means to establish themselves. Your kind recommendations have been very advantageous to me, for which I return my sincere thanks.

It is possible that Messrs. —— will require my services, the only house that may need them; if they do not, I should really be at a loss, after six months, to know what to begin here, though I should not despair, but patiently await the future. I have had a slight attack of the fever; I am anxious to be acclimated. Reading and writing, (except very little,) are forbidden. I shall not enlarge, hoping to soon hear from you.

Presenting my kind thanks for all the attention and kindness I have received, and which I will always gratefully remember, I take the liberty to call myself

Yours,

C. L. DE RANDAMIE.

Maryland Historical Society

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