The legislative bodies of the State have been equally zealous and prominent in the cause. In 1828, by resolution, they expressed emphatically their approbation of the Colonization Society, (there was then but one,) and recommended it to the patronage of the general government, as "eminently calculated to advance the interest of our common country." Even previous to that by five years, in 1824, in the very infancy of the whole movement, Ohio, by legislative action, had recommended the gradual but entire emancipation of slaves and a system of foreign Colonization, recognizing the evil of slavery as a national one, as well as the principle that all the States should share in the duties and burdens of removing it. In 1850 she recommended the general government to acknowledge the independence of Liberia, and in 1851 her State Constitutional Convention, then in session, memorialized Congress in favor of a line of steamers to Africa.

Some of the most munificent friends of the cause belong to Ohio. By the noble liberality of a citizen of Cincinnati, not long since, a large tract of territory, north of Monrovia, was purchased, and placed at the disposal of colored emigrants from Ohio.

As late as 1853, her State Society acted with the American Colonization Society, and was represented by delegates to the Board of Directors.

We now recall these facts with a purpose: To show the steady support Ohio has given to the Colonization cause on a national platform, and, by inference, the almost certainty that a course so consistent deviates for a time, only to meet requirements of her position at home, which we are able in some degree to appreciate.

We conclude with a remark, which has already suggested itself to many readers, that the streams of emigration to Liberia now, however diverse, must all prove healthful if they bear thither the right class of emigrants. There they cannot but unite as citizens of the same republic.

VISIT OF THE REV. MR. PINNEY TO LIBERIA.

It will be seen by the following extracts from the Colonization Herald of October and November that this prominent and able worker in Colonization has packed up and started on a short tour to Liberia. The why and wherefore we do not rightly understand, further than is evinced by the following hasty advice to his friends; but let his object business be what it may, we are sure he will be doing good to the cause, wherever he may be.

(From the New York Colonization Journal of October.)

Our visit to Liberia.—Most unexpectedly, with but a few days' notice, the editor of the Journal finds himself preparing to take passage in the Estelle to Liberia, intending to return in her. This step is taken after advisement with the Board of Managers, under a conviction that the safety and health of the new emigrants, and therefore the real progress of the cause, may be promoted by such a visit. Complaints of want of buildings adequate in number and of suitable quality, have for some time reached us, until now the case seems to deserve looking after by the personal observation of some one familiar with all the facts.

Having three times before safely passed and repassed the ocean, the present voyage is undertaken without any misgivings, and with confident hope of returning to home, and family, labors in the month of March next. Meantime the duties of editor and the care of general correspondence has been committed to most competent hands; one of the Managers of the Society, J. C. Devereaux, Esq. having voluntarily undertaken these temporary duties.

(From the New York Colonization Journal of November.)

Colonization Rooms, *October 20th*, 1854.

At a special meeting of the Board of Managers of the New York State Colonization Society, held this day, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that John C. Devereaux, Esq., be requested to act as Corresponding Secretary, *pro tem.* in the absence of Rev. Mr. Pinney, during his visit to Liberia on business of the Society. Joseph B. Collins,

Rec. Sec. N. Y. State Colonization Society.

(From the Minutes.)

While the Rev. Mr. Pinney, our general *chargé d'affaires*, is absent, the administration of the Society falls more directly upon the Executive Committee of the Board of Managers. His skilful and watchful hand is missed from the helm, but it will be our care to see that the Society's business, at least does not suffer from neglect. The correspondence, and other matters, shall receive prompt and careful attention, as heretofore.

To place the agency of our State Society in Liberia, and its arrangements there for the reception and comfort of emigrants on a better and more permanent footing, is the main object of Mr. Pinney's visit. New buildings for the purpose are contemplated, indeed directed, and will require a large and unexpected outlay.

We hope Rev. gentlemen laboring for the Society as agents, will take this into consideration, and increase rather than remit their exertions in favor of our treasury. To the generous friends of Colonization we present the same suggestion, and urge also the slowness of our income from the prevailing "hard times," as claims to their *present* special consideration.

(From the Cavalla Messenger.)

AFRICAN CUSTOMS—SOCIAL RELATIONS—MARRIAGE.

The Africans are a very social people. Amongst them, as other natives, marriage has much to do with forming and regulating their character and general intercourse.

It has been already stated, that marriages are contracted at very early age. In the case of girls, usually between the age of six and twelve. It is considered a reproach to have attained the latter number of years without having had an offer. The following is the form of getting a wife.

The young or old man (for the Africans begin early, and continue late to get wives,) first fixes his eyes upon the little girl, whom he desires to marry. He then takes a trifle—handkerchief, plate or some such thing to the mother of the child, as a present, announcing with it his wishes. Before returning answer, the mother consults the husband, male relations, and headman or patriarch of the family.

In case these parties are favorable to the marriage, the mother accepts the present. Henceforth the young man is considered, and adddressed as *ata*, son-in-law; and the mother as *da*, or mother-in-law; and the intercourse between them corresponds with this this relationship. *Ata* is a constant visitor at the house of *da*, where as often as convenient, he takes presents of fish, palm-nuts, cloth, and such other things as he is fortunate enough to have. *Da*, on the other hand, is ever ready to share with *Ata*, her frugal meals. As she has occasion, she calls upon him to work, as to clear her rice farm, &c.

When the girl has attained the age of twelve or fourteen, the betrothment money is paid by the patriarch of the young man's family. This consists usually of two cows, a bullock, a female goat, a copper vessel, for making

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)

1854