salt, by evaporation, and some smaller articles, to the value perhaps of two dollars.

This being done, the girl is taken to the house of the young man's mother. Here she takes the place as a daughter, and remains until she is of a suitable age to be married. Without any ceremony she then becomes the wife.

Such is the way in which the first wife is obtained. Afterwards there is a continual accession, according to the disposition and ability of the husband. He purchases one; another leaves her first husband, perhaps, at a distance, and comes to him. This is considered a great honor, and is celebrated by the firing of guns. In such case, the new husband has only to return to the old, the usual amount of betrothment money paid and "*the palaver is set.*" Unless, indeed, as not unusually happens, the former husband thinks proper to recover his wife by a legal process.

The most fruitful source of wife *getting*, is the death of relatives. Betrothment money, being the earnings of all the members of the family, the women procured for it are objects of interest to all; and when the death of a man occurs, the women are divided amongst the male members of the family.

The manner of division is generally this. After the death of a husband, *one month* is assigned to mourning, each wife during this time remaining in her house, and making a *black mourning grass cloth.*

The time of mourning having passed, each wife is required to select the member of the family whom she prefers. Sometimes a women prefers not to choose any one. In case she is of advanced age, this is allowed. But if the case be otherwise, she is not unfrequently *shut up in her house* until she is pleased to make choice of a husband.

The most incongruous alliances are often formed. A youth becomes the lord of a middle aged women, and a girl is called the wife of a gray-headed man. But the Africans say "it is all one; a women is a wife, and a man is a husband."

But notwithstanding this apparent indfference as to her qualifications, when the *getting of a wife*, is concerned, she is expected to show a decided character, when married. As soon as this takes place, she has a house built for her, and becomes *Kaide*-(house mother.) Her house is not large, indeed not generally over twelve feet in diameter, and the furniture consists of but few articles. But still, there is an *orderly* and *disorderly*, arrangement of these, and the floor, though only of beaten clay, may be clean or dirty. And both the *Kai-buo*, (father of the house) and his visitors, mark and commend the women who keeps her house in good order.

TRAVELLING AGENT'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 1854.

Dr. James Hall, *Dear Sir:*—I send you herewith an account of the contributions made to the funds of the Maryland State Colonization Society, during the month of November, with the names of the respective donors:

Chesapeake City, Cecil County.

William Lindsey $2 00; Dr. T. Trites, James J. Lindsey, D. L. Dunning, Mrs. Cropper, J. H. Brooks, John W. Collins, each $1; James L. Shutz 25 cts. $8 25

Baltimore.

Eastern Avenue M. E. Church $24 00; John P. Stroble $10 00; G. & N. Poplein $5 00; H. Wilkins $2 00; H. H. Graue, Rev. J. N. McJilton, Wm. Colton, A. Mathiot, each $1 00. 45 00

Total for November, $53 25

Respectfully submitted, John Seys, *Travelling Agent.*

Baltimore, November 23, 1854.

Printed by John D. Toy, corner of St. Paul and Market streets, Baltimore.

MARYLAND

COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

CONDUCTED BY JAMES HALL, GENERAL AGENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

New Series. BALTIMORE, DECEMBER, 1854. Vol. 7.—No. 19.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH LIBERIA.

This subject has been so prominent before the public the past few years, and especially during the present one, that we feel bound as a Colonization journalist to introduce it into our columns, if for no other reason, to save time in answering questions in regard to it, from all with whom we chance to come in contact. We fear, however, that we shall give little satisfaction, even to the idle questioner, by telling all we know about it, confining our remarks to what has actually *been done.* Most of our readers will recollect, that, some four years since, we published the programme of a grand project for a line of steamers to Liberia. It was proposed to run four ships of four thousand tons each to the principal ports, thence to some European port or ports and back to the United States, touching of course at the Madeiras, Western Islands, Cape de Verds, &c., going or returning. The agent in this business made a dead set at Congress with champagne, oysters, terrapins, log-rolling and all party machinery, and the American Colonization Society lent its aid and countenance to the plan. Fortunately it fell through and the Society was saved from the injury it would inevitably have sustained from having been made the cats-paw or decoy duck of a gang of speculators; for no one, at all acquainted with the financial affairs or requisitions of the American Colonization Society or the trade of Liberia, could for a moment suppose that the benefit of either, or the advantage to be derived from all, was the cause of the movement, or that even one of these immense vessels would have continued a year on the proposed route. All, that the petitioners wanted, was a liberal appropriation from Congress, under the sanction or through the influence of the American Colonization Society; and strange as it may seem, the Society was willing to be so used. After this scheme exploded, but little was said or done in regard to steam connexion with Liberia, excepting occasional expressions of the desirableness of the thing, until the annual meeting of the Society in January last, when the subject was again brought forward by Mr. Schieffelin of New York, which resulted in the appointment of a committee to institute enquiry, obtain facts and statistics, to investigate so far as practicable the whole subject, and report to the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors, or sooner, if necessary, to the Executive Committee of the American Colonization Society at Washington. Of this committee Mr. Schieffelin was chairman, and in the performance of his duties, as such, he spared no pains, time or expense, and in a short

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