time prepared a most able and valuable report, the conclusion of which, founded on facts embodied therein, was, that a single steamer, fitted for the purposes required, could not be run without a large appropriation from the Government, and that it would not be prudent, at this time, to take any steps in the matter, further than the procuring of subscriptions. Here, then, we understand, the matter rests, so far as the legitimate action of the Am. Col. Society is concerned. In the meantime, however, a company has been organized in the city of New York, we believe, under a kind of general charter law of the State, called the United States and Liberia Steamship Company, whose object it is to obtain subscriptions of stock, and run a steamer between the United States and Liberia. The officers of this company are those of the American and New York Colonization Societies—the President of the latter being its President, and the President and Secretary of the American Colonization Society being of its Board of Direction. Yet, we believe, it is entirely disconnected with the American Colonization Society, to all legal effect, certainly.

During the past summer a general meeting of the friends of Colonization was holden in New York, through the agency of this company and the New York Colonization Society, the object of which was, to take measures to promote steam communication with Liberia. This meeting was an informal one, although attended by the agents of several State Societies auxiliary to the American Colonization Society, by the Secretary of the American Colonization Society at the instance of its Executive Committee, and by its President. At this meeting, it was resolved, that, the general agent of the American Colonization Society, the Rev. R. R. Gurley, who was appointed by the Board of Directors at their regular annual meeting, to travel through the States in promotion of the cause of Colonization, should devote himself to the business of procuring subscriptions to the stock of this company, which were to be made on the ground, that, in case the amount obtained should not be sufficient to enable the company to purchase and run a steamer, or in case the company did not think it expedient to run a steamer, a sailing vessel should be substituted. Mr. Gurley, we understand, has devoted himself to the business thus laid out for him during the summer and autumn, but with what success we are unable to say. We have noticed repeated appeals to the public through the press, written with his usual zeal and ability, and bearing the sanction of his name, so long connected with the cause. This is pretty much all we know about steam connexion with Liberia, and those of our readers, who have taken sufficient interest in the matter to peruse this article, can form about as correct an estimate as ourself in regard to the promise of success, near or remote.

One thing however we may set down as certain, the conclusion arrived at in Mr. Schieffelin's Report, viz: that neither the Society, a Company, or any individual will be likely to run a steamer between the United States and Liberia, without liberal patronage from the United States Government. If then this patronage is to be obtained, on what grounds should the application be made? Does any one suppose that the transmission of a mail to and from the African Squadron, or more frequent mail connexion with the Cape de Verd

Islands, with which we scarcely have a nominal commerce, or with Liberia itself, in a commercial point of view only, will ever induce Congress to advance any thing like an appropriation necessary to ensure a continuance of steam communication with Liberia? If Congress can ever be induced to an act of the kind, it will be solely on account, and in aid of the cause of Colonization.—This being granted, to whom will Congress be so likely to give it, as to the Colonization Society itself. Certainly to no other party, unless it can be shown, that the Colonization Society is from some cause or causes unfit for the trust. If Congress makes an appropriation for steam communication with Liberia, that appropriation becomes an *influence* and a *power*, and wherefore should the American Colonization Society deny itself that power and influence which it so much needs? What right have its officers to make it over and abandon it to any other party, over whom the society can have at best but a limited control? We do not say this has been done, or that it has been proposed, or is to be proposed—but we do say, *it should not be done.*

The American Colonization Society has, since the charter of the old Ship Elizabeth, been more or less a commercial company: its officers and agents both here and in Africa, have of necessity been commercial men. The business of the agent on this side the Atlantic has been, to go into the market and charter and fit out vessels, to purchase provisions, furniture, clothing, mechanical and agricultural implements for emigrants, and merchandise of all kinds and varieties, for trade with natives and old settlers, for the care and support of the immigrants in Liberia; and to do this properly, to make out his charter-partys, invoices, bills of lading, and letters of instructions accordingly, he must be a merchant. The agent of the society in Liberia is of necessity the keeper of a public store, with all the varieties of goods demanded in a market where there is no currency, of the value and rate of exchange of all, he must be well acquainted, in order, judiciously and economically to provide for the emigrants committed to his charge. He too must be a merchant. On the character and capacity of these two merchants, in a great degree, has depended, and will depend the prosperity of the Society and of Liberia. For the past fifteen years, the American Colonization Society has maintained a fair credit in every Atlantic city in the Union, its business has been transacted, generally, in a safe and mercantile manner, and its books in the office of Washington will not suffer by comparison with those of any commercial house in our cities. The society has in its service, not only those who are able to conduct its business well on this side the Atlantic, but those who know what is required in Africa, and are able to give proper directions to the agents of the Society there. If need be, it can, as well as any other company or association, procure additional trustworthy, commercial men, at fair salaries, and we trust can and will continue to conduct its affairs in an able and mercantile manner. Wherefore then should it abandon the transportation of its own emigrants, by steam or sailing vessels? wherefore, then, we say again, should it abandon a power and an influence which may be placed within its reach?

If a vessel is to be purchased, let it be purchased by the society. Let its agents throughout the land ask donations for a vessel or vessels for Liberia, and who can doubt of their success, or who can doubt that money

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)

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