The President makes a dead set at the French Government for a vessel of war, military uniforms, &c. The latter of which he succeeded in obtaining, at least, the promise of. He also opened negotiations for a recognition of Liberia by other powers of Europe with hopes of ultimate success.

The President then alludes to the feeling abroad in regard to the non-recognition of Liberia by the American Government, and states the singular proposition of Mr. Saunders.

While in England, I had the pleasure of meeting, frequently, a number of distinguished citizens of the United States all of whom expressed unqualified regrets and mortification—at the indifference of their Government towards Liberia; and especially at the unkindness of not acknowledging her independence. They seemed to feel the more, that Liberia—the child and boast of American philanthropy and benevolence—was receiving so much consideration and favor in Europe, while the Government of the United States still neglected her. For, aside from every other consideration, it appeared clear to them, that, European Powers were establishing an influence in Liberia, which must in time—unless their Government speedily changes its policy—prove disastrous to the commercial interests of the United States on the African coast. Feeling myself that such were the natural tendencies of the opposite policies pursued, I of course offered no argument in contravention of the sentiment advanced.

On two occasions, by invitation, I met several American gentlemen when the claims of Liberia upon the United States Government were freely discussed. Hon. G. N. Saunders, especially, manifested deep interest in the subject, and strongly recommended that Mr. Buchanan should take up the subject officially, and urge it with all the power of his influence, upon the attention of his Government.

Mr. Buchanan readily promised his cordial co-operation in any measure that could be made to appear to him practicable. Mr. Saunders advised as the most feasible and ready means of reaching the object that I should, while in England, address an official letter to Mr. Buchanan, adverting briefly to the rise and progress of Liberia—to the extension and growing importance of the trade—to the claims of her citizens upon the sympathy and benevolence of the Government of the United States—to the attention and consideration the Government of Liberia has hitherto received, and is still receiving from European Powers, and the effect these marks of attention and kindness are likely to produce upon the minds of the people, resulting prejudicially to the commercial interests of the United States with Liberia and finally to propose, on the part of Liberia, the negotiation of a treaty, stipulating to admit *duty free* all merchandise imported into the Republic in American vessels; and that, for this privilege, the Government of the United States will pay to the Government of Liberia one hundred thousand dollars annually for ten years.

Though ten hundred thousand dollars was a tempting consideration, I did not deem it proper for me to accede to the proposition:—first, upon the ground, that I had not the slightest hope of succeeding in such a measure with the present Administration: and secondly, were my doubts of success ill founded, and however much my personal views inclined me to favor the measure—I could not think of proposing a stipulation so important which had not been canvassed, with regard to its merits by my fellow citizens. Though Mr. Saunders and others were exceedingly anxious that some effort should be made with as little delay as possible, the subject was allowed to rest here, with the understanding that I would submit it to the consideration of the Legislature on my return to Liberia; and should it be approved, to take the earliest opportunity of communicating the result to Mr. Buchanan.

It seems the President has taken steps for the establishment of a paper currency, and that the well known liberal Quaker, Mr. Gurney, has made a handsome donation for a small metallic currency.

I have also to inform the Legislature that—being impressed with a conviction of the necessity of a new paper currency—I assumed the responsibility of having engraved plates for striking bills of the denomination of fifty cents, one dollar, three dollars and five dollars; and ordered to be printed, a sum equal to six thousand dollars. I am sorry to say that I was disappointed also in not having these ready in time for me; but they will be at hand by the forthcoming Packet:—in the mean time, I procured a rough impression which will give you an idea of the description of the bills; and beg to submit to your judgment and approval or otherwise of the responsibility assumed. Besides this I have assumed one other responsibility, for which, I have to ask the approval of the Legislature. During my sojourn in London, I had frequent conversation with S. Gurney Esq. on the subject of a metalic currency, which he thought we ought to have—as well for the conveniences of trade, as to mark the existence and the nationality of the Republic. I agreed with him, of course, as to the propriety and importance of such a medium; but, at the same time, hinted the inability of the Government—in consequence of its limited pecuniary resources—to remove at present, this embarrassment. A few days before my departure from London, while speaking on this subject, Mr. Gurney proposed to supply one hundred pounds, in aid of procuring such a currency, on condition that the Government of Liberia would supply another hundred pounds. He further proposed, to advance the whole amount—say two hundred pounds—and to have the dies cut, and the coin struck immediately—in one and two cent pieces—to be forwarded by the steamer on the 24th January next: on the receipt of which, the one hundred pounds from the Government might be remitted. I scarcely need say, that I accepted his proposition; and that the work was put immediately into the hands of the coiner. Besides the great facilities such a means of exchange will afford to the commercial transactions of the country, and the stamp of nationality a coinage always impresses upon the public mind, whether at home or abroad; and—estimating the proposed coin, at the standard value of the copper currency of the United States, it will realize to the Government at least thirty per cent; and which—including the one hundred pounds presented by Mr. Gurney—will add to the money resources of the Government some seven or eight hundred dollars. No mean token of the generosity, or of the interest Mr. Gurney feels in the welfare of Liberia. And, as an additional proof of his interest and benevolence, I may be permitted to add here, that at our parting he authorised me to draw on him for fifty pounds, to be applied to educational purposes in Liberia.

(From the Liberia Herald.)

EDITORIALS.

THE NEW YEAR.—We have fairly entered upon a new portion of time. The year 1854 with all its joys and sorrows—all its expectations and disappointments, has passed away, and is now, "with the years beyond the flood." We are at the threshold of 1855 whose contingencies lie still in the unknown and mysterious future. We may live to see its close, and we may not. Who can tell the changes and revolutions that may be produced by a year, a single year? But no matter what occurs let us endeavor to be found among the uncompromising adherents of truth and righteousness, and we shall assuredly enjoy what, we wish all our readers—A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

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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