as sometimes manifest themselves. It should be our aim to harmonize as much as possible the discordant interests of parties. We should "frown indignantly upon every attempt" to promote divisions and strife. If this be not done it is difficult to predict the extent to which they may be carried. We have before us the examples of other nations; we have seen them rise and prosper excelling in the arts and sciences, ascending to the very acme of national glory. We have seen them torn by dissensions—and destroyed by disunion. Was not this the case with illustrious and learned Greece? Was it not thus with renowned and all-conquering Rome once mistress of the world? With these instances of national failure before us, let us search out and correct our own—Let us study and firmly adhere to the instructions suggested by the motto—"*United we stand.*"

Surely in all the vicissitudes of human affairs there is no occurrence so much to be deprecated as that which produces a dissolution of a national organization based upon principles like those upon which our Government is founded. It is to be hoped that our institutions will be perpetuated forever. But if in the course of events our little Republic, divided by factions raised by ambitious and aspiring demagogues, should be, on the border of disseverance, may some kind spirits wise in counsel, and powerful in argument; hovering over us, distil upon the troubled waters the assuaging oil of wisdom and restore the wonted tranquility!

We have been led to make these observations from noticing certain remarks made, with reference to Liberia, by Hon. Henry A. Wise, of Virginia—a strenuous advocate of slavery, and now the democratic candidate for Governor. He says: "*The colony in Africa must continue to have for a long period of time the care and constraint even of white superintendence and power. The black man must be sent ahead to open the jungle, but the white man must be behind him to press him on, to guide and guard him, and to save him when he flees or falls.*"

What say the people of Liberia to this? Are they prepared to admit that there is the least shadow of truth in the above remarks? are they willing that the opinion should exist abroad that they require the "constraint" and "superintendence" of the white man in order to their advancement? Are they willing to succumb to the idea that there is not innate sagacity, energy and fire enough in them to guide and urge them forward without the inciting influence of the white man? No; we are prepared to admit no such thing. We are satisfied to submit to no such degrading notion. What! shall free, prosperous, happy Liberians be mere automatons of white men? Let us spurn forever so profoundly humiliating an idea, and endeavor by a wise and prudent management of our affairs to perpetuate with honor our glorious institutions, and transmit them unadulterated to a posterity which, by our wholesome example and instruction, shall have been fitted to assume and maintain with still greater dignity their responsibilities. B.

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

By the American bark "Shirley," Capt. G. W. S. Hall, which arrived on the 30th ult. we have news to the 9th of December. Congress was in session—On the 4th of December, both Houses assembled at noon,—37 Senators and 197 Representatives being present. We have given President Pierce's Message a cursory perusal. He begins by noticing, as is usual, the occurrences of the past year. The great losses sustained in various parts of the country by agriculturists, the prevalence of pestilence—the numerous catastrophies by sea and land; but rejoices in the fact that notwithstanding all, the United States have experienced a year of peace, health has been regained, and the harvest has generally been plentiful. He then goes on to the domestic and foreign relations, of the United States, defines their position with reference to the European war, &c. The revenue of the Government exceeds its expenditures by several millions of dollars. After various suggestions for the improvement of affairs, the message is concluded with eulogistic expressions in relation to the position and prospects of the "Great Republic," the most prosperous nation on the face of the Globe. Liberia was of course too insignificant to find a place in that important document; we are not of the proper "mould."

When we take some things into consideration, however, we question whether it is not all for the best, that that Government still holds itself at so great a distance from us.

The decision recently made by the Supreme Court of the State of California, upon the admissibility of Chinese testimony in the courts of that State, has astonished us more than any thing we have heard lately. The *Baltimore American* of Dec. 2, says: "A white citizen of California was indicted for murder and convicted on the testimony of Chinese witnesses. He appealed on the ground that by the State law regulating criminal proceedings, "no black or mulatto person, or Indian shall be allowed to give evidence in favor of or against a white man." The question investigated by the court was, whether under either of these descriptions, and if any, under which natives of China must be classed to make them incompetent to give testimony in criminal cases against whites. The opinion of the court, delivered by Chief Justice Murray, was that Chinese, are not competent to give testimony against whites, in the courts of California, and accordingly the verdict in the case was set aside." If we mistake not, there is a treaty of amity and commerce existing between the Chinese Government, and the Government of the United States, and yet one of the States has the right to subject citizens of China, to such degrading treatment. What a country! This is the glorious Union of which its citizens so much boast. This is the country whose citizens frequently indulge in such high self-laudations, styling themselves "the freest people in the world," and their country "the asylum for the oppressed and down trodden of mankind," &c. Surely the most disgusting of all despotisms, is that which apes freedom and liberal principles,—and which under the cloak of Republicanism, practices cruel oppressions upon the weak and helpless.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Arrivals: Nov. 29—Liberian Government Schooner "Lark," R. Cooper, Esq. Lieut. Commanding, from the leeward. Passengers, the members of the Legislature from Sinou and Grand Bassa, and his Honor, Judge Murray, from Sinou.

Nov. 16—British Mail Steamer "Bacchante," Johnson, from London.

" 17—Schooner "Providence," Brown, from the leeward with palm oil.

" 21—Cutter "Off and On," Wilson, from the windward with rice and camwood.

Nov. 22—Cutter "Try, Try Again," from the windward with camwood and rice.

Nov. 22—Schooner "Harrison M," Madison, from the leeward with palm oil.

Nov. 23—American Bark "Hermitage," Savory, from Cape Palmas, with 21 passengers for this place, among whom was the Rev'd Jas. S. Payne and family, and Rev'd J. W. Horne, Principal of the Monrovia Seminary.

Nov. 24—American Brig "Louisa," Webber, 56 days from Salem.

Maryland Historical Society

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