THE MAINE PACKET SHIP FOR LIBERIA.

It seems the good people of Maine are in earnest and that the ship will be built. Over $5000 cash have been subscribed in the little sea port of Bath, and the following long article from the Portland Mirror shows that the friends of the cause there are putting their shoulders to the wheel in earnest. Mr. Gurley, so long the champion of Colonization, is at the bottom of this movement, and we trust he will push it on to a successful and glorious issue. It will be the best piece of work he ever did for Colonization and for Liberia.

Liberia Ship.—There was a meeting in the Federal St. Baptist Church on Wednesday evening last, on the subject of the 'First Ship in the new line to Africa.' Rev. Dr. Shailer nominated Judge Shepley chairman. Rev. Mr. Pratt addressed the throne of Grace. Judge Shepley explained the object of this call, and stated briefly the rights of the colored race to civilization and christianization; also, our solemn duty to further every attempt to secure these blessings to them. The Colonization Society had encountered prejudices; but it had greatly benefitted the colored race by proving in Liberia its capacity for self government. The official documents of Gov. Roberts were worthy of any man. The present incumbent, Mr. Benson, after having well acquitted himself as a judge on the bench, had recently been elevated to the Presidential chair, and will prove himself, I doubt not, a worthy successor of Mr. Roberts. The Diplomatic relations of this country are such as to commend that State to the world. Eight Governments, among whom are France and England, have already acknowledged the Independence of Liberia, and hereby shown their confidence in its capacity to sustain its Independence. Strength of prejudice prevents the elevation of the colored race, among us, to an equality with the whites. The greatest favor that we can do for them, therefore is, to provide a home where they can enjoy equal rights and privileges. The Liberia Colony will not only operate on Africa, but will exert a reflex influence on American Slavery. The establishment of a nation of freemen there, thereby proving the perfect capacity of the race for self-government, must hasten the extinction of Slavery here. The Colonization Society wants the means of transporting emigrants to Africa. Maine has done little of late for this institution; it is now proposed by one noble effort to redeem the past and make up in this contribution what has heretofore been lacking in our charities. The American Colonization Society has so conducted as to entitle it to our support. The confidence of every President of our country has been accorded to this institution. It has been approved too, by every American Statesman, of any prominence. In its practical results, the American Colonization Society, has done more than all other societies looking to the improvement of the colored race.

Rev. R. R. Gurley, at request of Rev. Mr. Chickering, gave some account of the subscription raised last week in Bath, amounting to $5000. He spoke with feeling of this noble response to the call of the Ship Committee—of their forwardness of mind, as Paul says, that the manner and promptness of their action was not a small consideration when weighed even with their princely offering. Wherever he went in that city he was welcomed, and those who had nothing to invest in the ship, gave him their good wishes, and their prayers, he doubted not, which he valued above price.

Mr. G. read a cheering letter from Joseph Titcomb, Esq., of Kennebunk, a member of the State Committee, stating his fullest confidence in the enterprise, the co-operation of the benevolent gentlemen of that town, and claiming for our State the exclusive honor of completing the work so nobly begun! that *Maine must build the Ship.*

The influence of this movement in developing the resources of Africa is important. Dr. Barth recently returned to England from an African exploring tour, discovered during his travels large kingdoms whose names have hitherto been unknown.

The favorable influence of the Colonization Society, on slavery, is equally apparent. The speaker had been engaged in this cause thirty years and had seen as much of this country as most men,—he had visited Liberia twice and he could speak with confidence. The interior African Slave trade will only become extinct through the influence of civilization and Christianity—their influence will pervade the interior. Dr. Barth while in the vicinity of Timbuctoo accompanied an African King at the head of 20,000 on an expedition, from which were brought back, besides 10,000 cattle, 5000 slaves! It is over this dark land, the home of barbarism and the habitation of cruelty, that we would spread the wings of civilized law.

At the suggestion of Rev. Mr. Pratt, Mr. G. rose again, to explain the advantages to the Society in owning a ship. In the first place, it is much cheaper; the expense of a charter of a ship to Liberia is about $10,000, and is more than the Society is able to bear. This trade requires a peculiar kind of vessel constructed for the purpose. Emigrants in ordinary ships suffer in their accommodations and it has become a matter of complaint with them.

The establishment of a regular line, instead of depending on transient vessels, will encourage commerce between the countries. This is increasing yearly at the rate of 50 per cent. Recently a lot of palm oil, arrived at Salem, was transported to Louisville, Kentucky, for the use of a manufactory there. [illegible] quantities of this oil are used in England; one establishment alone pays fo[illegible] 50,000 pounds sterling, annually. It is brought to the African coast from the interior in rude vessels made from sections of hollow trees. These, containing only two or three gallons, are fastened on the back of men, and women too, and taken some thirty and forty miles to a market. But, the present is the time for doing, rather than for talking, other gentlemen here are ready with the best of eloquence, that of action, much more impressive than any of mere words.

Rev. Mr. Chickering fearing, when this better sort of eloquence, alluded to, should begin to move, he might lose his opportunity, would improve the present moment to say a word. He regarded this enterprise as a great civilizing, christianizing, world-redeeming, world regenerating one. A Christian Colony like that of Liberia, must afford the surest guarantee we can have against slavery in the future. The opposition of Southern men to the recognition of Liberian Independence is an indication of the influence of that colony: they already see in it, they must feel, its tendency to elevate the colored race. As a missionary enterprize, my thoughts have been carried to our Pilgrim Fathers and the scenes of the May Flower; and unless the Committee have found another name, they cannot have a more significant one than this, for the 'First Ship in the new line to Africa.'

John Neal, Esq., although as proud of his Pilgrim Fathers as any one ought to be, felt that they would suffer in a comparison with the Pilgrim emigrants to Liberia. These Liberians, unlike our forefathers, had paid the natives an equivalent for all their lands: they had showed a better temper, in their social policy; established a more consistent, liberal policy in civil affairs and avoided many of the errors of prejudice and superstition of our Pilgrim fathers. Mr. N. spoke of the resources of the African continent, its coffee, camwood, cane, &c. &c., and of the growing importance of Liberian commerce.

Rev. Mr. Pratt had a single thought. Ministers as is well known are true successors of the apostles, having neither silver nor gold—but, while others

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