TWENTY-SIXTH OF JULY.

The 26th ultimo, the eighth anniversary of Liberian Independence, was observed with the usual demonstrations throughout the Republic. In our city, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was an unusual manifestation of life and spirit. The flags of various nations were seen floating in different directions; while strains of martial music, and the booming of cannon throughout the day, seemed to heighten the enjoyment.

About 12 o'clock a large number of persons, of both sexes and all nations, collected at the M. E. Church, where appropriate exercises were performed. The Oration, delivered by Rev. Alexander Crummell, was all it was expected to be—a rich intellectual feast. Some, perhaps a majority of the audience, may have had to "struggle" occasionally "in a net of ratiocination," but all were doubtless entertained and edified. The singing, conducted by Rev. A. Herring, is said by those qualified to judge, to have been good; with the exception that the tunes might, without any impropriety, have been a little more patriotic. The Declaration of Independence was read by R. L. Stryker, Esq.

Robertsport.—We learn that the 26th of July was observed with great spirit and vivacity at the new settlement at Cape Mount. A letter written to a friend of ours states: "Mr. Snotter delivered the address for us; after which the mountains in our vicinity resounded with the echo of cannon from the battery of Port Roberts. Not being able to have a "Tea," in consequence of the absence of the "fair sex," the pleasures of the day ended with a well spread and sumptuous table, after which we returned to our duty—watching."

At Bassa addresses were delivered on the 26th by H. M. West, Esq., at Buchanan, and Hon. M. A. Rand at Edina.

Burglary.—We learn that a few evenings ago some "consummate rascal" broke into the store of Hon. E. J. Roye, and stole in cash one hundred and seventy dollars. We hope the rogue will be apprehended and brought to justice.

A Liberian Book.—We learn that a small volume of poetry, by Mr. R. H. Gibson, now in press at the Sentinel office, will be out in a few days. Success to Liberian literature.

Drowned.—On the 27th ultimo, two men belonging to the Government schooner Lark, while attempting to get on board during very stormy weather, their boat having upset, found, not far from the shore, a watery grave. Their bodies have not been discovered.

UNION OF SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA.

A late number of the London Quarterly Review—the able periodical recently established under the auspices of the Wesleyan Church in England, has an article on the condition and prospects of the Republic of Liberia, in which reference is made to "a movement now taking place, an attempt to induce the British Government to give up Sierra Leone, and allow it to form a part of Liberia." This would give Liberia a sea coast of more than seven

hundred miles. The reviewer favors the project, and advances various reasons why the Government of Great Britain should accede to the request. He argues that Liberia and Sierra Leone are both the result of the same spirit of benevolence towards the African race, both having their birth in a moral necessity, and working by the same means to the same great ends; and he concludes his reasoning with the singularly English climax, "What more natural than that the union of the two colonies should be solemnly pronounced by the British Government?" There is force, however, in the following—

"A possession (Sierra Leone) which, in our hands, has *no value* but what rises from its answering its benevolent design,—and even that value is greatly lessened by the unsuitableness of the climate to European constitutions,—would thus become a source of greatly increased strength to its younger brother and successor. The splendid port and harbor of Sierra Leone would be a great gain to Liberia; and indeed its acquisition is the grand motive to the movement. Let us hand over our possessions on this coast to an *independent* African Government. With its orderly rule we are well acquainted, and *our growing commercial relations will always give us influence in its councils.* Our moral support will serve at once as a guide and defence in its future career."

We hold it to be far from improbable that the cession will be made and the union formed, for the reason indicated in the words we have italicised. Great Britain's interests would be served by it. She would get rid of an expensive colony, that has been the grave of many of her officers and agents, and which only her pride of philanthropy can have induced her so long to retain. Taken into the bosom of the Liberian Republic, all her benevolent designs in establishing the colony would be well cared for, and she could not be charged with betraying her self-imposed trust. She would bind Liberia to her by the ties of strongest gratitude, and she would undoubtedly and legitimately have great influence in the Liberian councils, as the reviewer suggests. She would continue to receive all the benefits that now accrue to her from commerce with the coast and the interior, without the sacrifices she is now compelled to make. She would in fact be rid of a heavy responsibility without any diminution of her influence and advantages; and with but a very partial surrender of her actual authority. It does not seem likely that England will long hesitate under such circumstances.

And yet while our great commercial rival has already given to the new Republic gratifying and substantial proofs of her good will, and will probably add to these the cession of an important territory—while England is, in truth, actively laboring to secure for herself the growing commerce of Liberia—our own Government hesitates to even recognise the independence of this thriving republic, and permits our rival to step into the possession of promising commercial advantages which the private benevolence of our own citizens had virtually secured to us. We confess we cannot understand such statesmanship, especially as it is well understood that Liberia was quite willing to waive her right as an independent power in the matter of diplomacy, and confide her interests near the United States Government to a white representative. (We apprehend, however, that when her merchants come here to buy they are not required to transact their business through a second party of another race.) It does not seem fitting that the parent should thus practically cast off her offspring, especially when that child of her benevolent enterprise comes bearing in her hand the precious gift of commercial advantage.

The article before us also refers to the advantages England is receiving and will yet more abundantly receive, from opening steam navigation with Libe-

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)

1856