of consummation. The direction of the undertaking, it will be recollected, was committed to the Rev. John Seys, so long and favorably known as the Superintendent of the Liberia Mission and as travelling agent of the Maryland State Colonization Society. After visiting various regions interior to Bassa and Monrovia, he fixed upon an elevated position some twenty-five miles east of Millsburg as the suitable location for the new settlement, and forthwith made preparations for new unacclimated emigrants, of which twenty-two were selected from the expedition by the M. C. Stevens. They were landed at daylight on the 29th of January, and under the immediate care of Mr. Seys, commenced their march for the interior, expecting to lodge but one night on the way to Careysburg, the new settlement. Advices from Mr. Seys under date of March 9th, announce but one case of fever, and that very light, yielding readily to medical treatment. In the mean time at least four-fifths of the other emigrants by the same expedition, located elsewhere, have suffered severely from the fever.

Thus far the experiment has succeeded beyond the most sanguine hopes of its friends and promoters.

The new settlement at Cape Mount appears to be in a prosperous condition, and promises to be a healthy one. President Benson was on a visit to that place when the ship left.

Trade was very dull, almost all the small coasting vessels belonging to Monrovia and Cape Palmas were laid up in the rivers; the palm oil trade being mainly in the hands of foreigners, English, Dutch and Americans. It was currently reported in Monrovia that a treaty was in progress between the Republic of Liberia and England, by which the subjects of the latter government are to be allowed free trade at all the ports and along the entire coast of Liberia, in consideration of an annual stipend of $100,000 to be paid to the Republic, the treaty to continue in operation for ten years. The effect of this arrangement, if it goes into operation, will be an entire monopoly of the coast trade by the English. The Presidential election was close at hand, but occasions little interest. Mr. Benson's administration has been very popular, and he will have little or no opposition.

Measures are being taken for the erection of the new College, but from various causes of delay, it will not go up till the next dry season. The agricultural interests of the Republic are materially improving. The raising of Sugar Cane is no fiction. Fields of five, ten, and fifteen acres are common on the St. Paul's River, and one or two plantations have over fifty acres of good cane fit for grinding. One steam mill is in operation, and a very large one is expected out for Mr. Richardson, the largest sugar planter on the St. Paul's.

The M. C. Stevens proves to be in every respect an excellent vessel, being an uncommonly easy sea boat and a very fast sailer.

List of Passengers of the M. C. Stevens—Cabin—Rev. David A. Wilson, lady and son, Rev. Francis Burns, W. H. Davies, Capt. Wm. Champion, Jno. G. Blackwood, Jr. Mrs. James B. McGill, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Philip Koker, Master Koker, Miss Ann Wilkins, Miss Kate Strobel, Doctor James Lillason, Henry Lillason, Elizabeth Lillason, Edward Weir, Martha Weir, Hall, Miss C. M. Hall. *Steerage*—Mr. Waters, Jefferson Waters, Thomas Nathan Floyd, Richard Floyd, John Floyd, Berry Floyd, Elizabeth Floyd, Silas Elliott, John Cooper, James Black, Thomas Cropp.

NOTE.—Of the steerage passengers, four or five of the adults came back disgusted with the country, the others come on business of their own, hoping to induce their friends to return with them.—ED.

PRESIDENT BENSON'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The ushering in of my administrative term was a juncture fraught with many disadvantages and discouragements. About six weeks previously a most distressing civil war had broken out between the Americo-Liberians of Sinoe county, and the aboriginal tribes, known as the Grand and Little Butaw, the Sinoe and the Blue Barree tribes inhabiting said country, which, for some time, threatened the extinction of our settlements in that section of this Republic. Three of the interior settlements had been abandoned, and two others, partly destroyed by the flames of the enemy, were but feebly occupied as outer stations. The crops were nearly all destroyed; all inland communication, and consequently such supplies as the country usually afforded were cut off; thus suddenly rendering four-fifths of the Americo-Liberians in that interesting county entirely dependent on charity for food and raiment, at a time when foreign and domestic provisions were more than fifty per cent higher than usual; so that the extinction of the settlements in that interesting county by war and its concomitants seemed inevitable, and was pretty generally apprehended.

In the prosecution of that campaign, (which, properly speaking, was but the suppression of an insurrection of heathens,) the policy was to adhere as closely as possible to that humane principle in international law, which enjoins "to do the enemy as little harm and as much good, in the time of war, as may, under existing circumstances, accord with a sound discretion."

Considering, gentlemen, the relation we sustain to aboriginal Liberia, our great duties, responsibilities, and brilliant hopes with respect to their future social, political, and religious welfare, it was generally regretted that measures so revolting to our feelings had to be resorted to for our own as well as their safety and benefit.

Copies of the terms of peace will be duly laid before the Honorable the Senate, in which it will appear that reasonable indemnities were exacted of them; reparations sufficiently stringent when taken in connexion with the chastisement they had already received, to cause them to reflect seriously in the future before perpetrating similar aggressions; and from their general expressions of regret, exhibitions of humility, and solemn promises of future good behaviour and loyality, I cannot doubt, if a judicious course is observed by the Americo-Liberians, that that county will rest from war at least a score of years, if not perpetually.

A great number of our fellow-citizens inhabiting that county have long since returned to their deserted villiges and homes with new life and zeal, and are praiseworthily laying the foundation of a permanent prosperity and independence.

During my visit to Sinoe, I dispatched Capt. Crayton, via. Butaw, with friendly assurances to Joe Weah, an interior chief, with whom for many years we have been on the most friendly terms; the obstruction of whose intercourse to our settlements by the Butaws, who have been waging war against him for several years for that purpose, has proved very retarding to the prosperity of our settlements for years; and the interposition of this government, so as to establish free intercourse, contributed in a great measure to the assumption, by the Butaw tribes, of the great hostile attitude towards us. These friendly assurances were cordially reciprocated by Joe Weah and the tribes contiguous, and a proposition was made by him, and an understanding had, that, as former obstructions were now removed, a good road be opened from our settlements to his town; in the prosecution of

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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