little. It has improved less than we expected, although we did not visit the farming region. Like Cape Palmas it has suffered severely from a recent war with the native tribes, or rather with the Fishmen and their allies in the neighborhood, to whom they have given a lesson that will not soon be forgotten. We found our old friend, Edward Morris, the Hon. Senator for that County, hale and hearty, and partook of his kindly tendered hospitality. Sinou wants more settlers, *and must have them.*

We weiged anchor early in the morning of the 26th, to continue our tedious process of beating up the coast. No land breeze favoring us, we determined to stretch far out at sea, beyond the influence of the coast current, or hoping to feel it less, well out: and most likely we did; for although we had no land breeze, and the sea breeze almost dead ahead, yet we reached Monrovia on the 3d day of March, making nine working or sailing days from Cape Palmas, which could easily have been run in one, with a fair wind.

CORRESPONDENCE OF MR. LATROBE, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, WHILE IN RUSSIA.

The President of the American Colonization Society, J. H. B. Latrobe, Esq., being detained in Europe by business, and unable to return home in time to preside at the annual meeting of the Society in January, addressed the subjoined letter to it. As the letter did not reach Washington before the adjournment of the meeting, it is thought due to the Society, as well as to its able President, to publish it in connection with the proceedings of the annual meeting.

To the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society:

ST. PETERSBURGH, *December* 16, 1857—N. S.

GENTLEMEN:—It is with regret that I find myself unable to preside at the coming meeting of the Society. I pass the present winter in St. Petersburgh, and upon another, therefore, must devolve the duty which for the last three years it has afforded me so much pride and pleasure to perform.

Leaving America in May last, and having since traveled over a large part of Europe, at a season, too, when American affairs were of more than ordinary interest abroad, an opportunity was afforded of seeing our country from a stand-point beyond her limits, and of hearing other voices than those of her people speak of her condition and her destiny.

It may be of service sometimes to an American thus to look back upon his home. His comparisons will probably oblige him frankly to lay aside many of the prejudices with which he crossed the sea. Escaping from their influence, and beyond the din and jar of local excitements, he may be compared to one who from the shore watches the majestic and resistless movement of the floating palaces of our waters, and to whom the clank of the machinery, essential to their progress, and the excitements and quarrellings of the crowd within, are made inaudible by the distance. He is forced to generalize about America. He is obliged especially to do this in regard to the one topic about which he is questioned more than any other, slavery, and every thing connected with it, however remotely.

Europe knows of the slavery of the United States as an unit. Individuals may sometimes recognize the distinction in this respect between

the North and the South; but these are exceptions. To the great mass slavery pervades the land. The replies which an American makes to the countless questions, sometimes taunts, upon this subject, are naturally colored by his own peculiar views in reference to it; but, whatever these may be, it is as an American that he replies; not as a citizen of Maryland or of New York, but as an American, proud of his country, and of his whole country.

It has been this constant reference in Europe to the slavery of America, keeping, as it has done, the subject of our common labors, gentlemen of the Board of Managers, so prominently before me that has led me to desire to extend this letter beyond the limits of a mere apology for absence.

Never having had for thirty years many doubts or misgivings as to the importance of colonization, I certainly did not come abroad to have my convictions in regard to it corroborated; but, had they needed strengthening, Russia was the place to come to. Here involuntary servitude exists, and here, as with us, a prominent topic of discussion is the future of the serf. Russia becomes thus at once of peculiar interest to Americans. But there is a vast difference between the involuntary servitude of the two countries: and it is in noting this difference, and tracing it to its causes, that the serfdom of Russia becomes a source of instruction to those who interest themselves in the questions growing out of slavery in America.

When emancipation takes place from time to time in individual cases in Russia, as it does with us, it liberates persons who belong to the race that has already in past ages produced the ancestors of many of those who are now nobles in the land. Each emancipated serf is on the instant absorbed into the mass of freemen. Some of the wealthiest merchants of Russia are at this time *undistinguishable* serfs, paying the "obrok" as the price of their virtual liberty. Were the whole body of serfs emancipated to-morrow they would amalgamate instantaneously with the free, as do two globules of quicksilver when thrown into the same vessel. You may make two globules again, but to recombine in each the same atoms is impossible. When emancipation takes place in America how different is the result! Instead of a closer union, there is a wider separation between the master and the slave. The kindly ties of generations perhaps are all broken, and distrust takes their place. There are no affinities competent to produce a united mass even; a homogeneous one, the result of emancipation in Rusia, is of course physically impossible. Oil and water have been poured into the same vessel, and the highest values of both have been lost or injured by their contact. Separation can alone restore or reinstate these.

It is the necessity of this separation, looking to the true interests of the two races where both are free, as in the case of the white and free colored population of the United States, that brings colonization, as the means of facilitating it, when circumstances compel it, so prominently before the individual who has the above comparison forced upon him by what he sees here in Russia.

Again, when emancipation takes place in this country, time soon makes the late difference of caste traditional only. In America, where color is the badge of caste, time leaves the difference where it found it; and, even on this account alone, has it here been more forcibly than ever impressed upon me that the tale which history will have to tell with us in America will be the old one of the Spaniards and the Moors, the same that it has ever told where there have been two people, between whom amalgama-

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XII. Newspapers
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2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)--May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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