commends itself as an agent of great good otherwise to the human race, to the favor of the whole civilized world. It is its claim to consideration, in this last respect, that has led the undersigned to bring it to the notice of your Imperial Highness. Its principal port is Monrovia, which is the rendezvous of the American squadron of 80 guns kept on the Coast under treaty stipulations with Great Britain, for the suppression of the slave trade. Its other ports are Bassa, Sinoe, and Cape Palmas. In any of these all ordinary supplies may be obtained, and there is not one of them at which the visit of a Russian squadron would not be hailed with the greatest satisfaction, if for no other reason than because of the additional countenance that would be thereby afforded to the efforts which its people are making to take a rank among the nations.

Should the undersigned have exceeded the limits of a propor reserve on this occasion, he trusts that an excuse will be found in the kindness with which your Imperial Highness received him, and the very flattering attention that your Highness appeared to pay to what the undersigned ventured to say upon the subject. The undersigned has also relied, perhaps, upon the fact, that knowing the feelings of his countrymen, generally, towards Russia, the expression of which, even to-day, he finds in the recent message of the President to Congress, he has ventured to hope that the reciprocal sentiments which are believed to exist in this country might be invoked, through your Imperial Highness, in behalf of the only colony that has ever gone forth from America, and the more so too, when, independent of all other considerations, that colony, the creature of benevolence and philanthropy, was the agent of civilization and religion: and taking the present occasion to express to your Imperial Highness his profound respect, the undersigned has the honor to remain,

Your Highness' obedient servant,

JNO. H. B. LATROBE,
President Am. Col. Society.

MR. SEYMOUR TO PRINCE GORTCHAKOFF.

The undersigned, Minister of the United States of America, has the honor to enclose to Prince Gortchakoff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, a communication addressed by Mr. Latrobe, President of the American Colonization Society, to his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantin, growing out of a conversation that Mr. Latrobe had the honor to have with his Imperial Highness on the occasion of his presentation. Mr. Seymour places this communication in the hands of Prince Gortchakoff, that it may reach his Imperial Highness through the proper channel; and takes this opportunity to renew to Prince Gortchakoff the assurance of his most distinguished consideration.

ST. PETERSBURGH, January 21.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOFF TO MR. SEYMOUR.—*Translation.*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has had the honor of placing before Monseigneur the Grand Admiral, the letter of Mr. Latrobe, President of the American Colonization Society, which the Envoy of the United States transmitted on the 21st of January.

His Imperial Highness has read with great interest the details that are given of the present prosperity of the Colony of Liberia; and in conformity with the wishes of Mr. Latrobe, will give instructions to the ships of the Imperial Marine which may find themselves on the Coast of Africa, to visit the ports of the colony.

Prince Gortchakoff, therefore, begs that Mr. Seymour, in accordance with intentions of his Imperial Highness, will communicate this to Mr. Latrobe; and he avails himself of the opportunity to offer to the Minister of the United States the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

ST. PETERSBURGH, January 25, 1858.

MR. LATROBE TO PRESIDENT BENSON.

To his Excellency the President of Liberia:

ST. PETERSBURGH, *Feb.* 1, 1858.

YOUR EXCELLENCY:—The correspondence that I have the honor to enclose to you explains itself. It resulted from my presentation, as President of the American Colonization Society, to the High Admiral of Russia, his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantin Nicolaevitch, on which occasion, very naturally, Liberia, its condition and prospects, formed the leading topic of conversation, giving me an opportunity that I gladly improved, so far as I was able, to the advantage of the Republic. The idea of a visit of a Russian squadron to Liberia expressed incidentally, was so favorably received by the enlightened Prince and accomplished gentleman to whom it was addressed, that I ventured, without previous consultation, which was impracticable, with your Excellency, to give to it a formal shape, relying upon your Excellency's appreciating the motive and justifying the zeal, that thus seized the occasion of putting the Republic in direct communication through the interchange of courtesies, with this great Empire. I am well aware that no suggestion of mine is at all necessary to induce your Excellency to pay to the flag of Russia whenever it enters your ports the respects demanded by the comity of nations: but I have thought that a statement of the circumstances under which the visit will be made, would be agreeable to your Excellency and the citizens of the Republic, and that you would not lose the occasion of testifying by your attention to his officers, your estimate of their Chief.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's humble servant,

JNO. H. B. LATROBE, *Pres. Am. Col. Soc.*

ARRIVAL OF THE ST. LOUIS.

Incidents and experience of a Cruise of over two years on the African Coast.

The first point on the African Coast at which the St. Louis touched was at Monrovia, the capitol of Liberia. Notwithstanding the glowing accounts which come to us from time to time of the rapid growth and prosperity of the colored Republic, it appears that it is almost at a stand still, and that the colonists are so entirely dependent on the natives of the interior for their supplies of provisions, that a failure in the crop produces a famine. The inhabitants of Monrovia, who may be taken as a specimen of nearly the whole population, are mostly traders, and the majority of these are of the lowest class. They have a particular repugnance to anything that looks like work, and the cultivation of the soil obtains very little favor among them Those who are not employed in trading devote their attention to politics. A member of Congress of the Republic of Liberia is one of the biggest men in the country, and he is never wanting in a full appreciation of his own importance and dignity. A Liberian

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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A. Maryland Colonization Journal

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