prophecy in regard to it. Its extension, power and prosperity as a nation, however, will depend much upon circumstances and events on this side the Atlantic; first upon the colored population, and next upon our Government. Were the prejudices of the intelligent, free colored people of this country against emigrating to Liberia removed, and the baleful influence of the advocates of equality and amalgamation, *here*, counteracted, and could our Government be brought to adopt a liberal, generous, or even *just* policy towards these people and towards Liberia, there is no calculating the magnitude—the glory of the result—the result to America, the Americo-Africans, and to Africa.

But we speculate not in improbabilities, we will presume merely upon a continuance of an emigration, like the past, for twenty years to come, and under the same auspices; and this will place at least 20,000 civilized American emigrants with their natural increase in the Republic. This is the least that can be anticipated or feared by the most sceptical. *With nothing better as a basis, our conviction is strong that Liberia will continue, as she now is, a centre from which civilization will spread to a greater or less extent coastwise and interior to her Atlantic boundaries: that a civilized Government of law and order, will be maintained there for many generations; that its final extinction will depend upon other causes than the want of capacity for self government in the African race.*

We must confess we entertained these convictions long anterior to our late visit, that we have felt them ever since our first year's residence in Liberia, a quarter of a century since, but they have been strengthened and confirmed by what we have lately witnessed, and from her history. Our confidence in the ability of the Liberians for self defence, self support, and self government, was first inspired, not by their numbers, their wealth, their means of defence, or what is generally considered *power*, but in what truly "constitutes a state," the free spirit of the people themselves.

The Liberians have had a training and experience in early life, which has taught them the true value of freedom and a free government, and well they know, too, that it rests solely with themselves to secure and maintain these blessings. Since the establishment of the colony of Liberia, more than the third of a century has elapsed, and during that period, there has never been, even for a moment, a cessation of the regular movements of Government. True, exciting times have occurred, and a strong difference of opinion has existed between the administration and opposition, but the Law has never ceased to reign. For a number of years, a governor of the colony was appointed by the society, but he had a mere paper jurisdiction, backed by certain appointments and expenditures tending to assist in maintaining his authority, but whatever agent or governor exercised authority there, he has been mainly dependant upon the most intelligent Colonist for the success of his administration. The Colony has been virtually free and independent since its establishment; but no shadow of authority of any kind has been exercised there since 1847, save what proceeded from the ballot box and a Legislature and Executive constituted by it.

That the Liberians are a law and order loving people, we think cannot be doubted, the systematic manner in which their government is administered, the uniform decorum maintained in their Legislative bodies, the freedom from riots at their most exciting elections, and of street brawls and murders, all prove an inherent disposition in the people to be governed by the Law.

As to their *ability* to legislate, the Declaration of Independence of Liberia, their Bill of Rights, Constitution, and all subsequent legislation is sufficient evidence, and they would compare favorably with the like documents and legislative action of many of the States of this Union, and with any thing of the kind, if the kind can be found, in South or Central America, or Mexico. The diplomatic character or action of Liberia has thus far certainly been very creditable to her; and we believe we are right in stating, that Lord Palmerston, on one occasion, declared that, in his opinion, there were but two ministers at the Court of St. James capable of executing a more able State document than President Roberts.

As to the capability of the Liberians to defend and protect themselves. It is scarcely necessary to suppose that their country will ever be attacked by any foreign maritime power, or if so, that any defence of their sea-board would be attempted. Of course, the coast settlements would be easily captured and destroyed; but by retreating interior, under a well managed system of Guerilla warfare, it is doubtful if they could ever be overcome. Let the Liberians keep clear of the clutches of their adversaries for thirty days, and there would be but little fighting for them to do. The catastrophe of the French and English forces in Hayti would be mild to the fate of the invaders of the Liberia interior, well supported by the native tribes. But, as said above, nothing of this kind is to be apprehended, unless all Christendom shall once more engage in a grand slave hunt; in which case, possibly, the Liberians will give further evidence of their Humanity by joining in the foray. But we purpose to speak only of the ability of the Liberians to defend themselves from the native tribes, and on this few words will suffice. From the early settlement of Cape Montserrado, when a handful of sickly, emaciated Colonists, poorly armed and with a scant supply of ammunition, repelled a host of barbarous natives, numbering nearly 100 to 1, to the present time, the Liberians have had many and severe wars with the different tribes of natives from Cape Mount to Cape Palmas, and with one uniform result, success.

These wars have been excited mainly by the slave dealers, particularly at the windward, sometimes by foreign traders, and also by ambitious, intriguing chiefs. The Liberians have fought in defence of their own homes, have marched interior and attacked well fortified towns; they have fought under all circumstances of disadvantage as to force, equipments and position, and at all times have, one and all, behaved well, like brave men; and, in some instances, as in the defence of Heddington, by Harris and Demory against a savage chief with a large force of cannibals, they have evinced a boldness and determination seldom to

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)

1858