aborigines within this Republic for the purpose set forth in your note is antagonistic to our avowed principles, as bearing too strong a resemblance to the slave barricoons of by-gone days; and as such would be revolting to the feelings of a humane Christian world, and entail a lasting disgrace upon this Government, this Government cannot for any consideration grant your request.

"From my knowledge of the native character on this coast, I feel confident in the belief that three or four days at each point will enable you to ascertain how many voluntary emigrants are to be procured at each place. As the people from the interior never emigrant voluntarily, all sent off to you after the expiration of three or four days are very apt to be constrained. I am therefore of opinion, that if you have spent that number of days at each point, and have not procured the desired number of voluntary emigrants, it is not likely you will be able to do so if you remain on this coast a year.

"Though I make these suggestions to you relative to the native character, yet they are not intended to deprive you of any privilege granted you by the authorities during your late visit here; a strict compliance with the laws of this Republic is all that will be required of you.

"I have the honor, Sir,

"To be, your obedient Servant,

(Signed) "STEPHEN A. BENSON."

"Capt. T. SIMON, Ship *Regina Cœli*,
"Vicinity of Cape Mount."

"*Department of State, Monrovia, Sept.* 13, 1858.

"I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the original filed in this office.

"J. N. LEWIS, *Secretary of State.*"

From the Christian Advocate.

NEW YORK, *Oct.* 29, 1858.

Dear Brother Stevens,—Being engaged in the agency of the New York State Colonization Society, I have obtained all the information that my time would permit from books, letters, periodicals, etc., concerning Liberia, and am still in quest of knowledge from all available sources, so that in preaching or lecturing upon the subject I may present it as it is. The more I read, and the more information I receive from those who have been to Liberia, the deeper are the convictions of my own mind that Colonization is an agency providentially introduced to co-operate with other agencies in the redemption of the deeply wronged and suffering millions of the African race. Having requested Mr. Davis to furnish me with his own convictions of Colonization and the state of Liberia, he has favored me with the following letter, which, on account of the facts it contains, I hope you will publish in the Christian Advocate and Journal.

Affectionately yours, VALENTINE BUCK.

P. S.—Mr. Davis returned to the United States in September for the purpose of qualifying himself to plead at the bar of the courts in Liberia, and intends to go back as soon as he shall obtain the necessary information; but finding great difficulty in obtaining admission to a law office he almost despairs of succeeding. Are there any among the members of the bar who read the Christian Advocate, who will take him into their office and instruct him in the legal profession? V. B.

To REV. VALENTINE BUCK, 7 Phelps Place.

Rev. Sir,—In compliance with your request I proceed to give you a few of my ideas of Liberia as a home for the oppressed of my race.

But before I proceed to speak of Liberia allow me to state briefly how I came to go to that country. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, I of course was an abolitionist, and, as far as I had given the subject any thought, was opposed to Colonization. But as I grew older, and saw the innumerable impediments which, as I think, will ever prevent my people's arriving at a state of social and political equality in this country, I determined to look for a place where I should not meet with such obstacles.

In September, 1852, I left Philadelphia and came to this city with the intention of going to Australia. At my boarding-house I found a number of persons preparing to go to Liberia, some of whom were citizens of that Republic. I had some conversation about Liberia with one of the gentlemen above mentioned, but had no intention at that time of going with him. I had made arrangements to go in a vessel then advertised for Australia; but her day of sailing was changed so often that I began to think she would not go there at all.

About the 1st of October I was again disappointed by the changing of our sailing day; and upon my return to the house I found Mr. Roberts, the gentleman before mentioned, about starting to take his baggage on board the ship. I told him to wait a few moments and I would go with him. The arrangements were soon made, and our baggage was sent on board at the same time. Although as you see, I made no preparations to go to Africa, yet never for one moment have I regretted going to that country. Upon my arrival in Liberia I was agreeably surprised at the appearance of the people and the aspect of the country. I expected to see a country of low sandy plains, with nothing but a few stunted shrubs to relieve the monotony of its level surface. But instead of that I saw a country covered with verdure of every kind, from the tiny vine that ran upon the ground, to the lofty forests which seemed to cover the whole country. Instead of a level surface I saw a country rising gradually, as it extended from the sea, until it rose into lofty mountains, whose tops were lost in the clouds. Instead of an ignorant, lazy people, incapable of taking care of themselves, I found the Liberians to be a smart intelligent people, devoted to commerce and agriculture, and carrying on the various branches of a republican government in a manner really wonderful, considering the material of which Liberia is composed. I had heard that the people lived in mud huts, and that snakes and other reptiles had as free ingress, and were to be found in the houses almost as often as the owners themselves. But I found the Liberians living in comfortable frame, stone, and brick houses, some of the latter being three stories high, and as well finished as the majority of gentlemen's houses in the country towns of this country.

The missions have done much good in Liberia, both for the natives and the Liberians. They have established churches and schools in every town and village throughout the republic, and have many mission stations out among the native towns. But, not denying that great good has been done by preaching to the natives, yet I think more might be done with the same means by pursuing another course. It appears to me that civilization must go with, if it does not precede, Christianity among the heathen. I think the missions might do more good for Africa by establishing colleges and institutes, where we, together with the natives, might be taught the arts and sciences of the age. Every one believes Africa to be rich in minerals and medicinal plants; but we have among us neither

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