aomunt exported from Liberia alone, will, in a few years exceed in value the entire tobacco crop of Maryland. Camwood is another article of commerce, exported from Liberia, obtained in the interior, and sells from $60 to $100 per ton. To these staple exports might be added several others of minor importance, either now or prospectively, as hides, pepper, ginger, arrow root, gums &c.

Animals.—The valuable domestic animals in Liberia are comparatively few. Horses are little used, none as yet being acclimated or domesticated, but are plentiful in the interior. They have cows, sheep, goats, hogs, the Muscova duck, turkeys and fowls. The wild animals are the elephant, leopard, sea horse, wild hogs, crocodiles, snakes, guanas, monkeys and several varieties of the deer, to which may be added innumerable smaller kinds, as chamelions, sloths, lizards, squirrels, rats, mice, many varieties of the ant, and other insects.

Thus, I have endeavored to give you a faithful, but brief sketch of the country called Liberia—its climate, soil and productions. I say faithful and brief, without one word of unwarranted qualification or praise. I will say, however, that it is such a country, that one born in it, never leaves, except upon compulsion. In my whole life, I never knew a person born in the tropics, voluntarily leave his native climate for a temperate one, such as you now live in—it seems to be a general law of nature, exceptions so few as only to confirm the law. While in any part of the tropical world which I have visited, I never failed to find many people from the temperate regions, and however brief their intended stay, never did I know one that did not acknowledge the superior claims of the tropical world, and thousands who came but for a month or year have broken all ties of home, country and kindred, to live and die under its milder and soothing influences. Therefore, independent of government, association, your descent, position here, or any other special cause, Liberia offers you a more desirable, more charming home, than this land of your birth. But were this all, or the greater part, I should not now presume to address you.

The Civil Government of Liberia and its administration, are things most worthy of consideration. The colony was founded some thirty-five years since. A ship load of colored people, like yourselves, were the pioneers of this work. After various trials and hardships, attempting a settlement on other parts of the coast, they landed, purchased and took possession of Cape Mesurado, on which now stands the Town of Monrovia. White agents or governors were, from time to time, appointed to conduct the affairs of the colony. Ere long it was discovered, that the colony and the governor also depended mainly upon the ability and sagacity of the more intelligent of the colonists, and as a natural consequence, the Government fell into their hands. The colony became a State, a Republican State and one of its citizens was chosen its Governor or President. Years have passed on, the second choice of the people is now their Chief Magistrate, and, thus far, the Government has been most ably and judiciously administered. Foreign nations have recognized the existence of this little Republic—foreign ministers reside at its capital. Vessels of war of all maritime nations visit its ports, as also those of trade or commerce, and Liberia has a seat among the nations of the earth. She has all the institutions requisite for the growth and prosperity of a State, which you see around you in this country. They have common schools and higher seminaries of learning, churches of various denominations—a well organized militia for defence, and most of the mechanic arts are pursued, not excepting printing. They have open and unrestrained commerce with many civilized nations, and through them pass the great native productions of the interior before referred to, as ivory, camwood and palm oil. *All this is done and being done by men of color—every one of whom, once occupied the same position in this country that you now do—almost every one now there, and many others who have fought the good fight, and finished their course, have been recipients of the bounty of the Colonization Society, and gone out in its vessels, and been for a time supported and cared for by its Agents.*

Maryland in Liberia.—I have spoken only of Liberia, in general, as a State or Republic; but it is proper, addressing people of Maryland, that I should refer, specially to what Maryland has done to promote the interest and secure the happiness of her free people of color. In 1831 she appropriated the large sum of two hundred thousand dollars, to be paid in annual instalments, to found a colony for her people in Liberia, and to remove such of them as were willing to go, and to provide for their comfortable settlement. Cape Palmas was purchased for this purpose, and a Maryland colony founded there. This now forms one of the counties of the State. What has been said of Liberia, as a whole, is equally applicable to "Maryland in Liberia," as a part of that whole. As a place for emigrants from Maryland, I would specially recommend it, being peopled, as it is, by Marylanders. It is also considered by all visitors to the coast, as being the most beautiful and eligible settlement in Liberia, and it is certainly as healthy and salubrious as any on the seaboard.

I have alluded to your political or legal disabilities here, from the legislation of the State in which you are, as yet, permitted to reside. Of the character of this legislation, as to right or expediency, I presume not to offer an opinion; but whatever may be thought of it, certain it is, that the State has, in no way, abridged your rights, your privileges, or restrained your pursuit of happiness and worldly good, without tendering you more than an equivalent. During times of great pecuniary distress, the almost utter prostration of her credit, when other States, with greater resources, repudiated and became bankrupt, Maryland continued to appropriate large sums annually, for the benefit of her people of color; to prepare and keep in order for every one of you a good home, where you might be free from every restraint, excepting wholesome laws, every where necessary for the regulation of society and the maintenance of Government; laws, too, made by your own brethren, and a Government administered by them.

What the State has done for those, who have seen fit to avail themselves of its bounty, and is now disposed to do for you, I will briefly sum up.

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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