more certainly than the total defeat of the avowed object of its perpetration. The firm determination of every portion of the Union to maintain its rights within the Union, under every extremity, would soon put an end to all necessity for any portion of it to elect between terrible means of doing so. It is the holding in reserve of this idea of rending the nation: it is the weakening of the idea of our glorious nationality that gives vigor, if not existence, to so many ideas that can escape being traitorous only by denying that we are a people or have any nationality. In the restoration of that great idea there is a moral force competent to save the country by ordinary means, even in such a crisis as this; or, if there is not, there is a practical force in it competent to save the country by arms whenever law is silent and arms are the only remedy. It is horrible to reflect that the children of the Revolution might be obliged to shed each other's blood. How much more horrible to shed it in such a manner that oceans of it could never restore what we had destroyed, while every drop of it would be an eternal testimony against our folly!

For my part I am not ashamed to confess the depth of my love for my whole country, and the mingled sorrow and indignation with which I witness every attempt to weaken amongst the people the sense of what we owe to the mother of us all. No people ever did any thing glorious who did not believe in God, who were not faithful to oaths, and who did not love their country. When I reflect on what God has already done for us, and already done by us for his own glory and for the advancement of the human race; when I consider what our position and our influence amongst the nations of the earth must be when we become a hundred millions; when I try to appreciate the necessity of just such a power on earth, and the majesty of its beneficent and irresistible exercise, my very heart throbs with overpowering joy and exultation that such a destiny is reserved for my people, that such a refuge and inheritance is kept in store for man. I thank God continually that the dust of my ancestors mingles with this soil; that the hands of my kindred have labored on these sublime monuments; that the valor of my friends was a part of the cost by which all has been secured; and that the lot of the inheritance of my posterity appertains to such a land and such a people. As for the South, taken in its widest sense, God has cast my lot there, and I have been loyal to her; all the more loyal, that I have been neither blind to her errors nor ignorant of her perils. As for Kentucky, if I have left undone any thing I could have done for her honor, her interest or her glory, she knows how joyfully I would redeem that lack of service. But still I love my country; still I am an American citizen. And I deny, with uplifted hands, the right of any Court, any President, any Congress, any State, any combination of States under heaven, to abolish from amongst men that highest of all human titles. I have worn it as a crown all my days on earth. And I implore you, by our common blood and common name, by all the love so many noble hearts bear for you, and all the hopes they cherish concerning you, so to acquit yourself in this day of trial and rebuke, that you shall bear that title proudly, long after my grey hairs are under the green sod.

BREADALBANE, (KY.) *January* 9, 1860. RO. J. BRECKENRIDGE.

NEW BISHOP FOR SIERRA LEONE.—The Queen has made another appointment of a Bishop to Sierra Leone, which has been vacant for nearly six months. The present Bishop, Mr. Beckles, is the fourth incumbent of the Diocese, although it was only erected in 1852, his three predecessors having fallen victims to the dreadful climate. The first Bishop was consecrated in 1852, the second in 1855, and the third in 1857.

To the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society:

GENTLEMEN: I find, with very great regret, that the trial of an important case, in which I am occupied here, will prevent my presiding at the business meetings of the present session of the Board.

I regret this especially, because I regard the occasion as one of more than ordinary interest to our cause.

The public mind is unusually excited upon the subject of the colored population; and, although slavery, in its different aspects, is the main topic of discussion; yet the free people of color, to whom our labors immediately refer, are deeply concerned in what is taking place in this connection.

It was to provide a home for these when circumstances, beyond human control, made their removal from the United States a necessity, recognized by themselves, that the Colonies on the West Coast of Africa, now known as the Republic of Liberia, were founded.

It was long ago anticipated that the natural increase and foreign immigration would sooner or later produce a competition among the laboring classes, in which the free colored men would be driven to the wall.

This competition is now everywhere observable, and the free people of color are everywhere the sufferers. Instances of wealth are doubtless more numerous among them; their intelligence is greater, and education is more diffused, than formerly: but the condition of the great body, and their relations to the whites, are inferior to what they were when our Society was organized. It is annually becoming worse. It cannot be otherwise. The causes of its deterioration are still accumulating, day by day, in the ever-increasing population of our country.

Formerly, the pressure upon the free people of color was, in some sort, elastic and bearable, as the West attracted the competing labor. But the West is filling up. The public domain is passing rapidly into the hands of individuals: and as the throng upon the Atlantic border and in all the great cities is multiplied, the pressure is in a fair way to become intolerable.

This is not a matter of speculation, but of figures. At the first census, in 1790, the entire population of the United States was not far from four millions. When our Society was organized, in 1816, it was estimated at about nine millions. The average of the six past decades will give a population in 1900 of one hundred millions, and in seven decades—70 years only from 1860—it will, in all probability, exceed two hundred and thirty millions. What, then, will be the condition of the free people of color, if they remain where they are? Excluded, even now, from many an accustomed calling by a white rivalry, is it likely their prospects will be improved when such rivalry shall have increased seven fold?

But the increase of population operates so quietly as to attract but little observation from day to day, and it requires some startling concurrence of circumstances to procure for it, in this connection, the attention it deserves. Now, however, when all men's minds are excited as regards the future of our country, it is only reasonable to suppose that the views here suggested will not be altogether overlooked. They are the same that have been entertained from the beginning by the originators and supporters of the Colonization scheme; and as time has illustrated their truth, it has entitled them to the gravest consideration from the statesmen and philanthropists of the day.

But the increase of population is not the only circumstance now to be regarded by the free people of color and their friends. Hitherto, emigra-

Maryland Historical Society

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2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)—May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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