It is just forty years next Saturday since the first emigrants embarked for Africa under the auspices of this Society. The man who owned the gallant ship "Elizabeth," in which they took passage, (E. Morewood, Esq. of Connecticut,) still lives, and is a warm friend and supporter of the cause. And, notwithstanding the conflicting elements and adverse influences we so sensibly feel and deplore, there are two sources from which we may derive encouragement and confident expectation for the future.

I. Colonization seems to have been God's chosen instrumentality to civilize the nations of the earth. It was colonization which carried arts and letters from Phœnicia to Greece, from Greece to Rome, from Rome to Britain, from Britain to America; and what more reasonable, what more probable than that this great civilizer should be found to be the agency appointed to carry arts and laws and religion from America to benighted Africa, and thus complete the circle?

II. What appears so natural and probable as an inference from these facts of history has been in a good measure demonstrated. African colonization is no longer a mere abstract theory. Forty years ago, so far as this Society was concerned, it was regarded and undertaken as an experiment; and for years the progress was so slow and success so doubtful that the enterprise was at length almost, by common consent, pronounced a failure. Many of its warmest friends were led to abandon it, and some denounced it as worse than useless—as a fruitless vine in the way of something better—and sought its destruction. But here and there a voice was heard to say, "Destroy it not, for a blessing is in it." One such voice was that of the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, who, on the 20th of January, 1834, at the annual meeting of the Society in the Hall of the House of Representatives, spoke as follows:

"We have the animating assurance that the Colony planted by this Society has prospered beyond all example. As an illustration I have collected the prominent incidents connected with the colony planted at Jamestown, Va., in May, 1607. It then consisted of one hundred persons, which number before September of that year was reduced to fifty, soon after to thirty-eight, when a reinforcement of one hundred and twenty arrived. In 1609 a further addition of one hundred and fifty persons was made, and the colony then amounted to five hundred souls. But by imprudence, extravagance and dissipation they were reduced in six months to sixty persons. In 1611 the colony had increased to two hundred; in 1622 it had become still more populous, when it was attacked by the Indians, and three hundred and forty-seven men, women and children were destroyed. The company which had been chartered was dissolved, and the colony taken into the hands of the King, and enjoyed the care and protection of the Crown. In 1624 the case stood thus: About £150,000 sterling had been expended in planting the colony, and more than nine thousand persons had been sent from Europe to people it; and yet, at the end of seventeen years, the population was reduced to eighteen hundred persons! While Liberia, with no governmental patronage, and without royal smiles or favor, and against wind and tide, against scorn and prejudice, in twelve brief years enrolls about three hundred souls. Still we hear that Liberia is a hindrance to freedom. Sir, the cause of human liberty has never been more effectually plead. She stands as its beacon-light for the whole earth. The wondering nations are turning their eyes towards the illuminated spot, and as they gaze upon its moral beauties, bright hopes, unfelt before, spring up in the heart that man's universal redemption is sure. Like the Star in the East, which announced the Saviour to the astonished Magi, it points to the advent of the same Redeemer, coming in the power of his spirit to roll away the darkness of a thousand generations. Yes, sir, there is hope for Africa. God, I believe, is preparing his way before Him. The harvest begins to ripen, and the slumber of ages will soon be broken, and those beams of light that now so refresh our hopes will expand and spread through the heavens until they be lost in the splendors of an eternal day!"

These stirring words of Mr. Frelinghuysen, uttered twenty-six years ago, when the prospects of the cause to most minds were darker than ever before or since, are worthy of a repetition at this day and on this occasion. I have taken the liberty to recite them, because they turn our thoughts, with so much satisfaction and hope, from all that is dark and fearful at home to the results of our labors, as now seen in the Republic of Liberia. In that well-organized, not unwisely governed Christian State, with her twelve thousand enlightened colonists, and exerting more or less influence for good over some two hundred thousand natives, we have convincing evidence that the scheme of African colonization is destined, under God, to be a most efficient instrumentality in the civilization of Africa; nay, in view of the actual failure of all other means used for the purpose for hundreds of years, it is hardly too much to say that this scheme will accomplish more than all others combined. The problem is thus being demonstrated, that, whatever is to be the future of our own Republic, American slavery will be the instrument of the regeneration of Africa. Here, then, is a work to be done of vast magnitude. The position, extent, population, and resources of that continent give to our cause an importance which should stimulate us to go forward with new zeal in our peaceful, national, successful way of doing good.

But in regard to our own country, one thing must be obvious to every unprejudiced, reflecting mind. It is this: the highest welfare of all concerned, no less for the enslaved than for the free, is dependent upon the harmony and perpetuity of our National Union. Would that we all, as individuals and as a people, might have discernment to see it, independence to say it, and integrity and patriotism to act accordingly! The general excitement occasioned by the lawless and atrocious invasion at Harper's Ferry, has doubtless had an unfavorable influence on the operations of our society, especially in the Southern portion of the country. At the North, however, it has had the effect to force upon some minds the practical question, What is to become of the free negro? They see a movement at the South to enslave or expel him, and at the North, State legislation against his approach—as in Kansas and Oregon—Ohio even excluding him from her public schools, and Michigan, if recent report has not misinformed us, not suffering him to preach without incurring a penalty. Such facts are well adapted to open the eyes and cool the ardor of good men in their hot haste after the freedom of the slave, and such facts will probably multiply rather than diminish to rebuke the fanaticism of these times.

From the Baltimore Exchange of February 23d, 1860.

THE NEGRO QUESTION.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Will you give place in *The Exchange* to the voice of a private citizen, on the subject of the bills relating to the free black population of this State, now under discussion before the Legislature?

During the twenty years that I have enjoyed a citizen's privileges, there has been perhaps no subject that, as a citizen of Maryland, has interested me more constantly and deeply than the slavery question. I was born and have passed my life in this State. Slaves have been held in my own family, and are held by many of my intimate friends and neighbors; I may, therefore, presume to as intimate a knowledge of the subject as a life-time familiarly with, and study of it, can give. I have been

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