in the habit of discussing the subject freely and fully with many persons of intelligence and wisdom here and abroad, with a view either to my own better information or theirs, and not, I believe, without result in both cases. In a word, I am satisfied that, without presumption, I may claim to speak the sentiments and opinions of a class—and a numerous one—neither fanatical, unreasoning nor ignorant, that truly conservative class, indeed, in whom the institutions of the South have always found their strongest defence.

I venture the broad assertion that any oppressive legislation in the spirit of the bills introduced into the Legislature by Mr. Jacobs, will create in this State a feeling more dangerous and damaging to the rights and interests of the slaveholder than the concentrated form of all his enemies beyond its borders. Let any such act accept its title in advance—"An act to erect an anti-slavery party in Maryland."

I need not here recapitulate the arguments by which every right-minded Southerner defends the institution of slavery as it has hitherto existed in this State; enough that we believe them based upon and entirely consistent with humanity, sound philanthrophy and humble acknowledgment of the hand of a Divine Providence ruling in all human relations. Especially are we accustomed to point to the superior condition of our free black population over the same class in the free States, as evidence that the human duties of the strong towards the weak are better understood and more truly practised on the soil where slavery exists than elsewhere.

Let the slaveholder of Maryland beware how he destroys this ground under our feet, and makes the "institution" such that a man of conscience and humanity can no longer stand up in defence of it. The eyes that must sink in shame before the taunts and criminations of those whom we have hitherto confronted upon a ground of truth and reason, will turn with terrible indignation upon him who shall bring this disgrace upon us. The spirit he will evoke will be something different from that which we know by the detested name of "Abolitionism." Fanaticism is impotent in its insanity. Even sincere and intelligent philanthropy abroad is mad in its ignorance of, and remoteness from, the subject with which it deals. To both we have said, "Let us alone—we will manage our own affairs." Citizens of Maryland are neither fanatical, nor ignorant, nor weak—and they will manage their own affairs. And wo unto the slaveholder when that hitherto imaginary antagonism between him and the non-slaveholder of his own State shall become, through his own insane act, a terrible reality! Wo unto him when "his foes shall be those of his own household!"

A few words to those gentlemen who appear sincerely to look upon this proposition of "binding out" free negroes as a truly humane measure. They have considered it in theory only. Let them in imagination go forward a few months to its practical working. A swarm of despicable, low officials, will be let loose upon the most thriving and worthy of the free black population—upon all who have means to be plundered—for those will be their chief mark. A hideous traffic in wretchedness will spring up in this State, which will degrade the white man who practises it lower than the most abject of the negroes in whom he speculates. Within a week, I have heard of a country lawyer who invested four dollars and fifty cents in a negro convict, and sold him for $1,000 to the South. He has rid the State of one negro convict. He outweighs the benefit by remaining here himself. This "binding out" system is even now practised in the sordid spirit I suggest. In my own country neighborhood recently, a free black woman fled in terror to a humane gentleman to protect her four children against a magistrate, who was making "eight dollars a head" by seizing negro children and binding them out on the false pretext of vagabondism. Can the legitimate slaveholder expect that the spectators of these acts will choose to draw any very nice distinction between him and these "bond-holders?" Let him pause ere he creates a class of slaveholders whose infamy must certainly become his.

There is probably, on the average, not a family in this State which has not its worthy free black dependent—dependent, not for material support, but for kindness and counsel, for protection in trouble, for all that a helpless race should and must have from their superiors. Leave the class to the protection of our social system as it now is, and let us hope that the movement which has stirred so many minds on this subject recently, may result only in turning them with a more enlarged humanity towards our feeble dependents.

HARPER.

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ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP.

THE Mary Caroline Stevens terminated her seventh voyage on the 5th instant, by arriving in our port, thirty-five days from Liberia—bringing Monrovia dates of January the 28th. Little time has been lost this voyage, comprising but one hundred and twenty-five days from the wharf to wharf again; sailing some ten thousand miles, and anchoring twice at four ports, and once at the fifth.

The Ship brings little of news, except what the papers contain, and we find little of special interest in them. Every thing appears to be going on well, in the old jog trot way, not vigorously and energetically as we could wish, but well—and *well* is, or ought to be, *well enough*.

President Benson has been elected and inaugurated for his third term. The Legislature has been convened, and after a rather brief session, adjourned—doing little business, and for the best reason, there was little to be done.

The Liberian College, we believe, is finally *fixed* by law, where it is, near Monrovia. That, perhaps, was the most important measure acted upon.

We first marked the President's Inaugural for publication, then found his message, and hesitated which to publish, as both were equally good; we finally decided to publish neither, as our readers all know that President Benson *can* write a good state paper, and the generalities in such things are pretty uniform, and the specialties not specially interesting to us, so far off.

Liberia Papers.—We have received a file of one paper only,* the Herald, for some three months, from which we make liberal extracts, running through that period. They will show, pretty fairly, how a Liberia paper is made up, especially in the column of *Items of News*. We are surprised to find how little foreign matter the six numbers of the Herald before us contain: at least three-fourths being of domestic manufacture. If home circulation is the principal object and destiny of the Herald, we think more extended extracts from foreign papers, especially interesting items of news, would render it more desirable and useful to Liberians.

* Since our Journal went to press a file of the Star came to hand via New York. The Advocate has never tendered us an exchange.

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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