Thus showing an excess of disbursements over the preceding year of $8,790.48, which excess I have been informed by the officers of the Treasury Department has been principally applied in liquidation of claims against the government.

PROCLAMATION.

By Stephen Allen Benson, President of the Republic of Liberia.

Whereas, it is incumbent upon nations, as well as upon individuals, to acknowledge, with due reverence and gratitude, the multiplied blessings and mercies which the Divine Ruler graciously vouchsafes to his creatures:—and whereas, His sovereign care and goodness have been remarkably manifested in the affairs of our infant nation during the past year, in the peace which has prevailed in our land, and in the abundance which has rewarded the husbandman, and all other classes of the people; and in other numerous instances in which His fatherly care and protection have been most signally manifested:—

Therefore, I, Stephen Allen Benson, President of the Republic of Liberia, do appoint Thursday, the 17th day of November, proximo, a Day of Thanksgiving to the Most High, to be observed by the citizens of this Republic, and by all others who may be residing in the same:—and they are requested to suspend, on the day aforesaid, the duties of their ordinary avocations, and assemble in their respective places of worship, to render thanksgiving and praise unto the great Arbiter of events for past blessings, and to entreat a continuance of His favor and protection for the future.

[Seal.] Done at Monrovia, this, the tenth day of October, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Nine, and the Thirteenth year of the Independence of the Republic.

By the President, Stephen A. Benson.

J. N. Lewis, Secretary of State.

Thanksgiving Day. Thursday the 17th inst., is the day set apart, as seen by the Proclamation of His Excellency, the President of the Republic, for public thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the manifold mercies he has vouchsafed to our infant Republic in times of need: in preserving us to a great extent from the calamities that have befallen other nations—war, pestilence and famine—and in giving us unmistakeable evidence of his gracious presence, by the outpouring of His Holy Spirit. We could hardly obtain a more suitable occasion than the present, for rendering unto God tokens of our unfeigned gratitude. Situated as we are, possessing, notwithstanding we have our advantages, disadvantages that have often made the faint-hearted quake; visited by diseases that, in other lands, have carried off their thousands, and tens of thousands; and yet spared by that amazing mercy which alone could have preserved us amid the trying circumstances; we certainly cannot have our souls so deeply dyed with base ingratitude, as to refuse to return to the Giver of all these blessings the thanks of our inmost hearts, which we may rightly consider as his due, although a poor offering to so great and good a Being.

Let us not consider that any benefits that may have accrued to us, are the result of our own exertion. Have not many, as good and industrious as we are, been deprived of blessings which we enjoy? We entreat our fellow-citizens not to be as those who have not God in their thoughts, but who forget the Father of Light, from whom every good gift proceeded-

eth. We entreat them not to be as he who said to himself, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry;" lest, before the sun will have twice dipped himself into the blue waves of the Atlantic, their souls also will be required of them; and their boasting voices be replaced by the wailing for the untimely dead.

We complain oftimes of our close circumstances; we murmur, because we possess not all the glitter of the wealth and pageantry of an older civilization. We complain that we have our pecuniary embarrassments, *et id omne genus.*

And yet we have not experienced to any considerable degree, those hardships which are invariably attendant upon the building of a mighty dynasty. Search the records of any great nation, and tell us if Liberia has suffered as much from war, pestilence, or famine? Even proud Albion has witnessed evils which we pray God to avert from Liberia; and the great American Republic has had her times of dire calamities.

There has been a time in the history of all great nations, when the superstructures were shaken to their very foundations; the feuds of internal dissension, the storms of war beat their fury against those edifices. How else could we know that they can stand the storms that often arise against them? How comes it that the sufficiency of the British realm for any emergency that may arise is now an axiom? Is it not because that nation has so often been tried by hard circumstances, in war, in pestilence, in famine?

Let us not then be faint-hearted, since we see that a brighter day is dawning on Liberia; but let us, for the future, do all in our power to develop all those elements of greatness that are in our midst.

NATIONAL FAIR FOR 1860.

Our Third National Fair will, according to law, be held next March, in the City of Buchanan, Grand Bassa. We are informed that the good people of that County are exerting themselves to make it an interesting occasion, and that they are determined to be prepared to meet Montserrado County in honest rivalry. Very good and very laudable in them. This is the kind of competition we admire; and we hope no untoward circumstances will prevent the realization of their fondest hopes. Bassa may bear away the prizes on coffee, ginger, arrow-root and possibly on rice, and on some other articles of less notoriety; but we predict that, unless their exertions be superhuman, this County will carry off on sugar, molasses, syrup, cotton and on manufactures. So, good neighbors, look out for yourself. We wish you every success.

Premiums.

We are authorized to give notice that the following premiums will be awarded to the successful competitors at the National Fair to be held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa, in March, 1860:

First.—The Candelabras, from H. M. Schieffelin, Esq. of New York, as a premium for some article of Liberian produce or manufacture, will be given, or its value, as the individual may prefer, to the producer of the greatest quantity of the best quality of sugar in this season.

Second.—One of the ten dollar premiums from T. R. Marvin, Esq. of Boston, through Rev. J. Orcutt, will be awarded to the producer of the greatest quantity of the best quality of coffee in Liberia in this season.

Third.—The other ten dollar premium from T. R. Marvin, Esq. will be awarded to the possessor of the best live farm fence or hedge in Liberia.

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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