who have before gone out, are liable to be out of time, and great inconvenience is the result. On the other side of the Atlantic, regularity or stated times for voyages are not less important to passengers and freighters. These reasons, we conceive, render fixed periods, for sailing of the Ship, *a necessity*.

As to frequency of the voyage. This is desirable, certainly, not only as promoting the general interests of Colonization and Liberia, but for economy. The more work the Ship does, the more profit, or rather the less expense in proportion to her earnings. But keeping the vessel running, only allowing time in port for discharge and reloading, is incompatible with fixed periods of sailing. We hesitate not to declare, that no sailing vessel, afloat, can make over two voyages per year between this and Liberia, doing the business which devolves upon the Ship, and meet fixed times of arrival and departure. We tried this for six years with the "Liberia Packet," then one of the fastest vessels out of this port, and never succeeded in making three full voyages in any twelve months; although directing her to touch only at ports of discharge and where freight was ready, often only two or three, and that but once each. The four years running of the M. C. Stevens, unsurpassed in speed, confirms our experience with the "Packet." True, in some voyages, she has a month or more to spare; then again, she barely has time for discharge, repairs and loading—not actually losing, on an average, over six weeks in the year. Regularity, therefore, of necessity, contracts the business of the Ship to two voyages per annum.

Two voyages being the limit, it only remains to fix the time of sailing for each voyage. Various considerations have been urged, affecting this, the most important of which, we will proceed briefly to notice. The first is, the best season for acclimation of emigrants, or that, in which, they may suffer least from the fever of the country. On this, there is a great variety of opinion, even among members of the profession, with equal opportunities for observation. This fact serves to confirm us in our conclusions, formed from an experience of near six years in attending emigrants during acclimation, viz: that there is really very little difference, so far as mortality is concerned. Medical authorities might be quoted to almost any extent, as to the times and seasons in which the malaria of all tropical and *intermittent* countries, if we may use the expression, is most concentrated and virulent—generally, however, conceding, that after the subsidence of the overflow of lands from rains or other causes, while the water is receding and drying up, laying bare the heretofore wet plains to the action of the sun, malaria, miasma, animalculæ, or whatever may be the cause of disease, are more freely generated and evolved. If this opinion is well founded and proved true by experience, then October and November, the drying up months, would induce the most virulent type of disease. Yet we have not found it so, nor have we heard of any one's expressing an opinion to that effect. The difference of opinion as to the most favorable period of acclimation may, no doubt, be justly attributed to the fact that a variety of other causes also materially affect the fate of different companies of

emigrants: such as, the well known great difference in the violence of the fever in different years; difference in locality, in habitations, in kinds of food, nursing, different medical treatment, but more than all put together, a difference in the peculiar constitutionality, or idiosyncracies of different individuals and families, or their peculiar susceptibilities to this specific disease. To us, the philosophy or theory of the matter is very plain and simple. Any foreigner, on becoming a resident of tropical Africa, especially on the coast, must necessarily breathe a malarious or poisonous atmosphere, sooner or later producing disease of a peculiar class. He is subject to repeated and modified attacks of this disease—generally, after the second, growing milder, until the system gets so accustomed to it, that it ceases to produce any deleterious effect. If this cause of disease is evolved more freely at one season than another, it does not prove that a greater mortality attends acclimation of foreigners landed at that season. We rather think the reverse. The new comer, in full health, from a temperate climate, and a sea voyage, is better able to withstand the effects of a disease, the prominent feature of which is debility and nervous irritation, than after a tropical residence for months and repeated attacks of the same disease. It is quite likely the sooner the system becomes accustomed to this poison, the better. It is a common remark among old settlers in Liberia, and acknowledged by the profession, that those who remain longest without being attacked, suffer the most severely.

The remarkable difference between Liberia and Sierra Leone in regard to attacks of the fever, serves also to confirm this idea. Foreigners may land at the latter place in the dry season, and generally remain with impunity until the accession of the rains; but then, they are sure of an attack, which few survive; whereas, in Liberia, so far as our experience goes, there is but little difference in the term of probation, and the disease is less fatal to foreigners than in Sierra Leone. We have dwelt more fully on this point, as many have expressed the opinion that emigrants should only be landed at certain seasons, but we much doubt if the mortality, or even the violence of the acclimating disease, would be materially affected by any discrimination in this respect.

There are other considerations, that render it desirable, if practicable, to land emigrants in the dries, especially since the establishment of the interior settlement. With the present means of inland transportation, and in fact, with any that we are likely soon to have, the passage through the country during the rainy season is attended with great inconvenience and distress, and often injury to the provisions and effects of the emigrants, but we think not materially affecting the grade of the acclimating fever, or the mortality attending acclimation, as has been lately asserted. Believing, as we all do, that emigrants suffer less from the malaria in the interior, the plan adopted is to send them direct from the vessel up the river. Now a wetting or thorough drenching, immediately on landing, if not continued too long, would not probably affect the system for a fortnight afterwards, the shortest time allowed for the first cases of fever, nor materially aggravate the disease. True, colds and diarrhœa, might, in many instances, be the consequence, and all exposures of the kind should

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)

1860