be avoided, as far as practicable; but no change in the times of sailing can prevent the landing of one cargo of emigrants in the rains. Our only remedy is to distribute the emigrants by the spring expedition among the beach settlements, or provide more speedy means of transportation, and more effective protection from the rains.

Having occupied more space than we intended in disposing of reasons alledged for changing the periods of sailing, we will state, as briefly as possible, what induced us to fix upon the time at which the Ship has heretofore sailed.

The autumnal voyage was first decided upon, and were there but one voyage in the year, we would prefer November to any other period. *First*, because nine-tenths of all emigrants offering, or likely to offer, can better break up after the close of their summer's work, be it on their own account, or for a master, than in any other time of the year. *Secondly*, the season is most favorable for the voyage—the weather is generally so mild that emigrants are comfortable without fire in the steerage: the autumnal storm season is passed, and the chances are, that the vessel will leave the coast speedily, and with a fair wind on the Atlantic, till her easting is run, and she hauls off for the trade winds. The time for arrival on the coast is unquestionably the most favorable, if any one season can be more favorable than all others; in this we believe all are agreed. The time for one voyage being fixed, how could we do otherwise, than take the opposite or last month of spring, May, for the other, and for the reason before stated; that although the Ship may, by a good chance, after twice visiting all the settlements, have a month or more to spare, besides discharging and loading, yet she is just as likely to meet with calms or adverse winds, prolonging her round voyage to near or quite six months, and thereby break up all *regularity* of connection.

The ordinary dry season often covers only four months, say from November 1st to 15th, to March 1st to 15th; but call it five months, and it is totally impossible to crowd two voyages or the termination of two outward passages into them. Say, we sail from here October 1st, and land emigrants at the earliest period of the dries, November 15th—one month at least being required on the coast, and sail for home December 15th—arriving here February 1st—shortest possible time in port fifteen days—get on the coast again, April 1st—the time of heavy rains, and what should we gain? Then, what should we not, probably lose; the Ship coming into port in mid winter, the chances of being blown off for weeks, of the bay or harbor being frozen up, the emigrants to be gathered in February, the possible chances of their being detained by ice in the bay on their way out, their suffering between decks, with or without fire, &c., &c. All these considerations render an attempt at two voyages, in the dries, worse than absurd—not only breaking up all regularity of communication, but incurring great liability to distress and disasters the most serious.

Were we to entertain the idea of changing the months of sailing, it would be to the first of December and of June. Our reason for this would be, the greater chance of arriving out on the summer voyage, in what, the natives call, the "half-dry season," or a cessation of the rainy season of a month or six weeks, generally commencing from 1st to 15th of July. It is what is often called the "windy season," as the sea breeze blows strong, dead on shore, night and day, most of the time, and seldom accompanied with much rain. This change, too, might better accommodate home cabin passengers, as those living long in Africa do not like to arrive on our coast earlier than April. But there are objections to even this change, the greater difficulty of getting emigrants together in cold weather, and more or less suffering from the cold by emigrants in a December passage down the bay and across the gulf stream. Then, June is not so good a month for sailing as May—more likely to be calm, thereby prolonging the voyage.



October and April 1st have been suggested, but this arrangement would be objectionable on two accounts. It would be likely to bring the Ship home from her October voyage in February, meeting bad weather. April 1st is generally stormy, the latter end of the equinox—and the arrival out in May would be at the very height of the rains; and we could not expect home passengers in either voyage.

We have extended this article far beyond what we intended, and must apologise to our subscribers for filling our columns with what they may not think of much interest to them, but we wished to say our say in this matter, and then leave it for the consideration and action of our masters, who annually convene to overhaul our log and reckonings.

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## "FREE NEGRO LAW."

This is the title or caption usually prefixed by the press, to a law to be voted upon at the coming Presidential election in eleven counties of this State. Yea or nay, for its adoption or rejection. We have been able to obtain only a synopsis of the law as follows, which we have found in several exchange papers, and always without comment.

Section 1st provides that the commissioners of the counties named shall appoint three commisioners in each election district, to control and manage the free colored population.

2. The commissioners meet on the 1st of December, and adjourn from day to day, or to any named day.

3. The constables of the districts to bring all the free negroes of the district before the commissioners.

4. That the negroes shall then be notified that unless they shall hire themselves to some industrious and respectable citizen *by the year*, they shall be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for the term of one year.

5. That if the negroes do not produce before the 1st day of January, a note or bond, as evidence they have hired for the year, on that day they are to be exposed to public sale to the highest bidder.

6. All children of free negroes, between the age of 4 and 12, shall be indentured to some citizen; males until they are 21; and females until they are 30.

7. The issues of said hired or bound females to be bound out in like manner.

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