Liberia and of the African Colonization work, and for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom in Africa and in other heathen countries. We asked for the use of the A. M. E. Church of Canonsburg, but sir, we, were denied by a majority of the Board of said Church, for the simple reason that we were identified with the work of African Colonization. O! what a crime it is to advocate a cause which has for its object the civilization and Christianizing of a continent which occupies nearly one-third of the whole globe, and a population of about one hundred and ten millions—the majority of whom are in the utmost darkness. Again, when we first thought of celebrating the independence of Liberia, we extended an invitation to the colored Sabbath Schools to participate with us in celebrating the birthday of the only African republican nationality known to us on the face of all the earth;—but, sir, they refused the invitation, for the above named reasons. This is not all. It was even told to some of our young members, that, if they marched under that Liberian flag, they would be compelled to go to Liberia, whether they wished to or not. By stating these things, I only wish to show you the reason why our delegation was small on that occasion.

Notwithstanding all the opposition, by 2 o'clock, the time when the oration was to come off, there was upwards of a hundred persons, white and colored, on the ground. The meeting was called to order by the President of the day, and opened with prayer by the Rev. J. McGuire, a white gentleman. The President, Mr. A. R. Henderson, then opened the exercises by some very appropriate remarks on behalf of the occasion, and ably defending the African Colonization scheme. The declaration of Independence and Constitution of Liberia were then read, and next was an oration delivered by the Rev. Samuel Williams.* It is impossible for me to attempt to describe this noble effort, without you having heard it or seeing the manuscript. I could not give you the most distant idea of it. We also had a couple of fine addresses from the Rev. Mr. McGuire and Mr. Chamberlin, both white gentlemen. The whole exercises were interspersed with vocal music, led by Mr. William Kerdeck. After the speeches were over, a resolution offered by Mr. Williams, was adopted as follows: "Resolved, that we recommend to the colored people of the United States to hereafter celebrate the 26th day of July as the independence day of Liberia."

The benediction pronounced, we all repaired to a table which had been prepared by the ladies for the occasion. It was loaded with the good things of life, and, if I am any judge, ample justice was done to the contents of it. When we had returned to our home, a heavy shower of rain came on, indicating that the Almighty held this in reserve to water the good seed which had been sown that day, so that it might take root and bring forth fruit. Three cheers for Liberia!

Yours, in behalf of oppressed Africa,

OBSERVER.

MR. WILLIAMS' ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—We have met in this grove for the purpose of celebrating the birth-day of a nation. It is not in honor of American independence that we have assembled. Let those

* Mr. Williams has spent several years in Liberia and only returned to this country on account of the ill health of his lady. His testimony is second to that of no other man, honest and capable of judging correctly as he is. Whether in this country or in Africa he is a *True* Liberian.—*Ed. Jour.*

celebrate that event to whom it brought liberty; let their drums beat, their cannon roar, and their star-spangled banner wave; let their hearts rejoice, for they are free. Let not a colored man's voice be heard throughout the land on "the immortal Fourth," because, while it brought life, liberty and happiness to the white man, it procured no words of cheer or freedom to the black. The colored man, therefore, has no part or lot in the joy and display of that memorable day.

We have met to day to celebrate the Thirteenth Anniversary of the only colored nationality on the face of the earth. Yes, this is the birth-day of an infant Republic. The babe was born on the Western shore of giant Africa. On the ever to be remembered twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord, 1847, THE YOUNG REPUBLIC was born. And now, while the American people of color have become the theme of every political speech, a plank in every political platform, and the cause of dividing political parties, and of sowing discord between the North and the South, Liberia lives and flourishes, and will continue to live, going on to greatness and to glory.

It was thought by many, that Liberia would prove an utter failure. Various have been the speculations on this subject. The eyes of the whole civilized world have been turned toward this infant Repulic, anxiously awaiting the solution of the problem. Some hoped that she would succeed, and thus demonstrate the capacity of the colored man to govern; while others wished the entire scheme to fail, and were ready to rejoice over its downfall. But equal to the most sanguine expectations of the former, and contrary to the evil hopes of the latter, Liberia still lives, thus demolishing the slanderous doubts and reports of the colored man's inability to rule.

Liberia, although only thirteen years old, has extended her borders over five hundred miles, up and down the coast. Her growth has been as rapid as that of the Carthagenians. Doubtless this little Republic is destined to be to western Africa what Carthage was to the North; for, it is well known that in the short space of two hundred years, Carthage became the mistress of the seas, and was feared and respected by the the then nations of the earth. May not Liberia attain to a similar greatness?

Africa has had her great nations in the East, in the North, and in the South, but the West has never produced a mighty nation; and is it not probable that God's time for this people's greatness is at hand? Do not the signs of the times bespeak that her day is near?

Let us take a view of the signs of the times for the last century. At the time of the American Revolution the whole line of coast from Cape De Verde to the Cape of Good Hope was one vast field of heathen barbarity. The slave-trade was carried on to a fearful extent among all the tribes. At the mouth of almost every river there were barracoons for the reception of the slaves, who were captured in the wars which neighbor waged against neighbor. Here the victor brought his captive and disposed of them. The defenceless inhabitant was hunted like the wild beast. Devastation and destruction were visible on every hand. For the poor negro there was no safety, no peace, no joy. It seemed as though hell itself had been let loose upon these miserable beings. Really the whole country was filled with hell-hounds from England, France, Portugal and Spain, seeking after the human prey of these shores. War, misery and blood were the result of this fiendish traffic.

About this time, when misery and crime were everywhere common, and when Western Africa seemed to be given up to destruction, a small

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