to them for such manifest injustice. In December last the Legislature of Liberia passed a bill laying an extra tonnage duty on all vessels, the nations of which had no treaty with that Republic, besides ten per cent. additional duty on all cargoes imported in such vessels. The bill to go into immediate operation when signed by President Benson. The chief trade of Liberia is with England, France, Hamburg and the United States, while her independence has been formally recognised and reciprocal treaties entered into with England, France, Prussia, Russia and Sardinia; yet her modesty is such that even England with all her partiality for the black race, has not been called upon to receive a resident Liberian as Consul: although President Roberts has twice visited that country as a Commissioner from Liberia, and was personally present as such when both of the existing treaties were signed.

The new law which must sooner or later be enforced will cost thousands of dollars to American merchants at present engaged in the Liberian trade and prevent many others from embarking in it. The friends of Liberia, while they appreciate the feeling of self-respect which induced the passage of this law, have nevertheless frequently urged those in authority there to refrain from adopting any such retaliatory measures; promising them at the same time that no effort should be spared to secure a recognition in some form or other. So far however their efforts have been most unsuccessful, and our government would not even bargain with the American Colonization Society as the Agent of Liberia, for the care and support of the recaptured Africans.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

The forty-fourth annual meeting of this Society was held in the Hall of the Smithsonian Institution, on the evening of the 15th of January, 1861. The Hon. J. H. B. LATROBE, President of the Society, took the chair. The Divine blessing was invoked by the Rev. Peter Parker, of Wash-

The President of the Society addressed the meeting.

[See Maryland Colonization Journal for January.]

Extracts from the Annual Report were read by the Rev. R. R. Gurley, Corresponding Secretary of the Society. The audience was then ad-

dressed by the Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D., as follows: Mr. President:-I almost wish to be excused from saying any thing. Indeed, I feel that I am standing here very much like a crooked stick, which the Committee have hastily caught up by the wayside, to help the Society over this soft spot in the path of its present anniversary. Disappointed in the expectation of being borne this evening on the splendid chariots of eloquence which had been looked for from abroad, I was apprised at a late moment of the honor extended to me by the invitation to take a part in the exercises of this meeting. Without time for any adequate preparation for so distinguished a service, I have come to respond briefly to the call, as best I may, under these unfavorable circumstances.

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Of course, I am not your orator. I only rise to bear my testimony and make a little exhortation, after the very full and instructive presentation of your esteemed Secretary in the report to which we have just listened.

With your indulgence, therefore, sir, and that of the assembly I will submit a few fragmentary and desultory remarks, by way at least, of observing the forms, if not enhancing the interest, of this occasion.

Yet, indeed, it would be idle in me to attempt at any time or under any circumstances to inform you, sir, or your associates in this Society, or even the auditory usually convened on the occasions of your anniversaries, in regard to the ancient or modern condition of Africa, or in regard to the affairs of Colonization along the coasts of that great continent, or in regard to the Republic of Liberia, or in regard to the fostering care which the American Colonization Society has extended to that infant State-or, in short, in regard to any of the great facts, principles, or results involved in that sublime and beneficent undertaking. Some of you have been prominent participators for many years in this series of deeply interesting events. And your names are already written on that scroll which the muse of history will bear down to posterity, as among the illustrious benefactors of mankind.

I see before me, presiding here, a gentleman whose energies have long been devoted, with, I had almost said, a paternal solicitude, to this noble cause, and from whom I heard, but two years ago, on this very spot, one of the most elegant and thrilling recitals of the entire Liberian enterprise to which I have ever listened. I see before me the two Secretaries of the Society, one of them having long and efficiently controlled its financial operations, and who has just now crowned all the labors of former years, by one of the most energetic and praiseworthy labors, in fitting out the three vessels that have so recently borne back in their native land so many hundreds of unfortunate and suffering Africans, while the other has literally grown gray in the service of a people whose distant shores he has visited in his mission of philanthropy, and in whose behalf he has often pleaded so earnestly and so eloquently.

I see before me another gentleman now, from the commercial metropolis, who has also devoted his life to the same great cause, and whom neither the perils of the deep nor the discomforts of a protracted residence in that distant land, separated from home and kindred, and all that men hold dear in life, could restrain from acting forth his self-sacrificing spirit in behalf of the despised and down-trodden tribes of that benighted but much-injured quarter of the globe.

I see before me other gentlemen, who have been actuated by a similar impulse, and have each, in their place and measure, borne up the cause of this noble philanthropy by their mutual efforts, counsel and prayers.

And in this connection I am reminded, also, that you have been associated in your work, sir, with some of the greatest and noblest men that have adorned either this or any other age or country-men who have been renowned both in the Church and in the State-clergymen, scholars, jurists, statesmen and orators—a catalogue which bears the names of Hopkins, and Finley, and Alexander, and Randolph, and Clay, and Webster, and a host of others scarcely less distinguished-names that will stand unobscured for all time by the side of Clarkson, and Wilbertorce, and Buxton, and the proud array of England's truest noblemen.

I feel, then, that I am standing, even now, in the presence of the very makers of history, and therefore it would be presumptuous, as well as

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