that the purpose of God is in it? Can there be any doubt that this is the open avenue, through the long-drawn vista of future ages, in which alone we may discern the ultimate destiny of the black man, and the solution of those portentous questions which, in the Providence of God, are cast upon our hands?

But the magnitude of that work which remains to be done. Some may be inclined to feel that this labor of Colonization is utterly incompetent; that it can never meet the wants of 160,000,000 of the race. They may tell us that we might as well think of emptying the ocean with a sieve, as to attempt to dry up or dissipate the evils of their condition. Well, then, if inability to do all argues it wise to do nothing, where shall charity be found on earth? Besides, this is a universal objection; if good against one species of benevolence, then it is good against all. But we do not propose, in this instrumentality, more than is possible in our day and to our strength. We do not propose to touch problems for which we see no practical solution; we cannot turn aside to wrangle on "foolish and unlearned questions which gender strife." Life is too short, and time too precious; we see that something can be done, and we propose to do it. And, sir, if in our day there has been kindled but one dim light upon the shores of a distant and darkened continent, who shall say that it may not yet illumine the whole horizon, as the dawn of that coming morning, when all the children of Ethiopia shall indeed awake, and "stretch forth their hands to God."

Well, sir, that light has been kindled; there it is already burning; there is its example, and there its silent influence; already its beams are spreading on either hand, and penetrating inland into the old barbaric night of ages. This is our work, and the next generation will have its work, and "the little one shall become a thousand;" and the great God who keeps his word, that in due time it may be fulfilled, will bring it all to pass!

I do, then, exhort that we shall not cease our work, for this is the point to which I am coming at last-that we shall not be disheartened by the magnitude of the task, nor discouraged at the apparent feebleness of our efforts, although there is with us, as it was in Jerusalem of old, "much rubbish," to obstruct our toil; and although it may be a time of trouble, such as we who were born of this generation never before beheld.

Sir, strange thoughts are passing in my mind to-night. Our beloved Union has at least subsisted long enough to have cast a seed out of her bosom, away upon the coast of the Old World, whose fruitage, as it grows, will bear the impress and likeness of this illustrious Empire of the West. There are our institutions, our religion, our language, and our laws. Can it be, that when this once glorious Confederacy is broken into fragments, and all our greatness has become as an idle song, Liberia shall be stretching forward in her noble career, and, embracing the wide realms of one quarter of the globe, shall stand one homogeneous, undivided people, and a mighty power among the nations of the earth? Must the mother die in this travail for her child? God only knows. O that with a confident assurance we could call up a better and brighter vision!

This question was thrust upon us before the Republic had an existence, and was in waiting when the Federal Government went into operation. Would that Liberia, the State which you have planted yonder, might become in turn a star of hope to us in our present darkness. It would seem then to be to us as when the mariner, tossed upon the surge, and swept before the terrific storm, fixes his gaze away over the mists of the sea, where he descries a solitary light, by which alone he holds the helm, and directs his course. It covers him from the sight of his present peril, and keeps him from despair. It nerves him for the elemental strife, and brings him at last to a heaven of peace.

So do I see the vessel of my country rocked upon the heaving sea of opinion, respecting this very destiny of the African race. So do I hear the wild wind flap her shrouds, and hear her cordage creak, while the noble ship reels and staggers in the big and bitter forces of the storm. Must she go down? May the Almighty Ruler of nations forbid it! May his goodness be our security—be more to us than the anchor's fluke or the cable's strength-more than the pilot's skill, or the labor of the crew! May his goodness be our perfect safety amid the tempest's gloom; and when the storm is spent and the fury past, may we still behold her pennon streaming full high above the brave old hulk, and at that sight shall the seamen and the landsmen together shout for joy.

The benediction was then pronounced and the meeting adjourned, to meet in the office of the Society to-morrow, at 12 o'clock, M.

JANUARY 16, 1861.

The Society met at 12 o'clock. M.

The President appointed the Hon. Mr. Gregory, Rev. Dr. Wheeler, and Rev. Dr. Pinney, to nominate the President and Vice-Presidents of the Society. Whereupon, the following list was reported, and the gentlemen therein named were unanimously elected.

President-Hon. John H. B. LATROBE.

## Vice-Presidents:

Gen. John H. Cocke, of Virginia. Rev. Jeremiah Day, D. D. of Conn. Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, of N. J. Moses Allen, Esq., of New York. Gen. Walter Jones, of D. C. Rt. Rev. Wm. Meade, D. D., of Virginia. James Raily, Esq., of Mississippi. Hon. Elisha Whittlesey, of Ohio. Hon. Walter Lowrie, of New York. Stephen Duncan, M. D., of Mississippi. Hon. Wm. C. Rives, of Virginia. James Boorman, Esq., of New York. Henry Foster, Esq. Robert Campbell, Esq., of Georgia. Hon. Peter D. Vroom, of New Jersey. Hon. James Garland, of Virginia. Hon. Willard Hall, of Delaware. Rt. Rev. James H. Otey, D. D., of Tenn. Gerard Ralston, Esq. of England. Thomas Hodgkin, M. D., of England. Hon. Charles M. Conrad, of Louisiana. Rev. Robert Ryland, of Virginia. Hon. Fred. P. Stanton, of Kansas. Rev. Nathan Bangs, D. D., New York. Hon. James M. Wayne, of Georgia. Hon. Robert F. Stockton, of New Jersey. Hon. Edward Everett, of Massachusetts. Hon. Washington Hunt, of New York. Hon. Horatio Seymour, Hon. Joseph A. Wright, of Indiana. Hon. Joseph C. Hornblower, of N. Jersey. Hon. George F. Fort, Gen. John S. Dorsey, Hon. Ralph I. Ingersoll, of Connecticut. Benj. Silliman, LL. D., Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll, of Penn. Hon. Edward Coles, Rev. Howard Malcolm, D. D. of Penn. Rev. J. P. Durbin, D. D. of New York.

Rev. E. Burgess, D. D., of Massachusetts. Thomas R. Hazzard, Esq., of R. Island. Thomas Massie, M. D., of Virginia. Gen. Winfield Scott, U.S. A. Hon. L. Q. C. Elmer, of New Jersey. Rev. Jas. O. Andrew, D. D., of Alabama. Rev. G. W. Bethune, D. D., of New York. Rev. W. B. Johnston, D. D., of S. Carolina. Rt. Rev. C. P. McIlvaine, D. D., of Ohio. Rev. T. J. Edgar, D. D., of Tennessee. Hon. J. R. Underwood, of Kentucky. James Lenox, Esq., of New York. Rev. Joshua Soule, D. D., of Tennessee. Rev. T. C. Upham, D. D., of Maine. Hon. Thomas Corwin, of Ohio. Hon. Thomas W. Williams, of Connecticut. Rev. John Early, D. D., of Virginia. Rev. Lovick Pierce, D. D., of Georgia. Hon. R. J. Walker, of Mississippi. John Bell, M. D., of Pennsylvania. Hon. Daniel Chandler, of Alabama. Rev. Robert Paine, D. D., of Mississippi. Hon. J. J. Crittenden, of Kentucky. Rev. R. J. Breckenridge, D. D., of Kentucky. Solomon Sturges, Esq., of Illinois. Rev. T. A. Morris, D. D., of Ohio. Henry Stoddard, Esq., of Ohio. Rev. E. R. Ames, D. D., of Illinois. Hon. S. A. Douglas, Rev. James C. Finley, Hon. Edward Bates, of Missouri. Hon. John F. Darby, Rev. N. L. Rice, D. D. of Illinois. Hon. H. S. Foote, of Mississippi. Hon. J. B. Crocket, of California. Hon. H. Dutton, of Connecticut. David Hunt, Esq., of Mississippi. Hon. George F. Patten, of Maine. John Knickerbacker, Esq., of New York.

Maryland Historical Society

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