And they did remember it. For in after years they showed in their choice of husbands that they had not forgotten their honest old father's lesson .- Portland Tribune.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

MONROVIA, APRIL 4, 1842.

To the Honorable,

The Members of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Liberia.

GENTLEMEN: -- You are now assembled for the discharge of the duties, with which the people of this Commonwealth have charged you.

We find great occasion to rejoice in the general welfare of the Colony: we are in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace; civil and religious harmony exist, and future prospects are opening before us: through the past year, and up to the present time, peace has been in our borders. Our civil and religious institutions are exerting a most happy influence over the natives around us, they acknowledge our superiority, and are daily adopting our customs.

Although diseases within the last few months have visited our land, and deprived us of some valuabie citizens, (and with them our most excellent Chief Magistrate); at present the general health | Courts; this arrangement (in such a community as of the people is good, and we are called upon to re- ours) is calculated to delay justice and create unnenew our thanks and our devotion to our Heavenly | cessary expense. For persons charged with larceny Parent, who has continued his mercies and blessings | &c. &c., however vague and uncertain, are bound towards us. If we find ourselves increasing in wealth, either to find security for their appearance at the (for the past season has been one of unexampled suc- | next Session of the Superior Court, or be imprisoncess to our merchants & agriculturalists), in knowl- | ed at the charge of State. And as this Court only edge (which I sincerely hope is the case), and in | meets semiannually, should an accusation be brought every thing which promotes human and social happi- | against any individual immediately after its adjournness, let us ever remember our dependence for all ment, however innocent, he must undergo the em these blessings on the merciful dispensation of Di- barrassment of finding security or remain in prison vine Providence: remembering that "righteoueness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any peo-

Since the last session of the Legislature, nothing special has occurred to disturb our friendly relations with foreigners or the native tribes around us.

Some little difficulty has arisen between the Colonial Authorities and some British traders on this of the present session, in one volume. coast, on the subject of jurisdiction over, and propriety of claim to the territory of Bassa Cove in the County of Grand Bassa.

Captain Denman, R. N. Sometime in October last, commenced a correspondence with me on this subject, which correspondence with one subsequently between honorable L. Sheridan and Lieutena d Seagram will be laid before you Contain Demnan in his correspondence claims

Base: Cove on the following grounds: 1. Lina: Mr. Spence a British trader, purchased Bass. Cove prior to any purchase made by this

years, carried on an undisturbed trade with the na- to limit their circulation by the means within his rear upon their compliance with any regulations made | with specie, camwood, ivory, or good bills of ex by the Government of Liberia."

me altogether untenable. have failed to produce documents to establish the their redemption. Situated as we are it is imposed the Mr. Spenie can have no territorial claim: specie. The small remittances from America of chased the land he occup ed in fee simple, will it ury. be pretended that he exercised political power by establishing a government over the territory? Or | will be made at this session of the Legislature to will it be insisted upon that any such power was I ceded to him by the natives? No! I think not.

But on the other hand, the natives of that county have not only ceded to us the territory, but also the right to exercise political power and control over the persons and property within its territorial limits. Non it sollows that if Captain Spence or any other | rupt; we are able to meet our contingent expenses, fore mer, have property within that territory, they but, very soon, we shall have more than this to do, are found to subscribe to the regulations of the Gov. Public buildings are now about being crected. erminent, that is entitled to exercise political juris- The light house on Cape Messurrand, will be diction over it. That the right of soil may be in completed in a few days; for the erection the exercise of the latter, is a principle generally been drawn from the public Treadry. A

rious attention. Not that the trade at Bassa Cove | an appropriation of at least three, thousand don't ple, let it be once setablished that these men are ad- officers of Government be discharged without mitted into our territory above the law, beyond our adequate revenue (which at present is scare

sults aimed at by these claimants.

undisturbed traffic, only being required to conform | the colony, and entitled to representation. hard dutice. Er nied copies of the port regulations are I would in conclusion remind you, Gentlemen, that

before the public. I say when we onsider this, it is ! difficult to determine what can be the presen or ultimate wish of these traders. Can it be that they think thus to tamper with us, because they think we are too weak to enforce our laws! Or, can it be that they think the British Government will countenance this interference?

Let them think what they please on this subject, I I cannot believe, gentlemen, that the British Government will tolerate such conduct in her subjects. No! the British Government is too magnanimous; they have no wish to oppress us. I would, therefore, recommend (rather than come into collision with any of Her Majos v's subjects, which we have heretofore studiously avoided) That we through the American Colonization Society, lay this subject as specdily as possible before Her Majesty's Government begging that Her Majesty's naval officers on this coast, be instructed to protect us from this improper interference of British traders, and that we be left

I would next call your attention to our judiciary, which in some particulars, is defective. First, that there are difficulties likely to arise before the Courts of Quarter Session, for the want of more definite distinction between the proceeding of be a blessing to mankind. these Courts as Courts of law; and a Court for the Probate of Wills, &c. &c.

in the peaceable enjoyment of our territory and po-

litical jurisdiction.

Secondly, that many cases of offences against the Commonwealth must originate in the Superior for several months.

At present many of our laws are vague and indefinite. And as it is important that they should be so constructed as to meet the poorest capacity, I would recommend that the Acts of the Legislature for 1839. 1840 and 1841, be compile! (striking out such as have been abrogated) and : epublished with the Acts

I would further recommend that the third section of an Act passed January 1841 to establish a currency in the Commonwealth of Liberia, be so amended as to make engraved bills redeemable with specie, camwood, ivory, or good bills of exchange. This recommendation is made Gentlemen, after a mature and deliberate consideration .- I have seen with regret the embarrassment of some of our merchants the past season; several of them have not been able to meet their engagements with the Collector, for the want of a sufficient circulation of these bills, (the only legal tender.) This arises from the fact | equal in value (to the nauves) to fifty dollars. that they are only redeemable with specie-con-2. That as British traders had for a long series of sequently the Society's Agent have been compelled tives of that place, we have no right now to insist I to redeem them. Whereas if they were redeemable change, merchants or others having produce could The position taken by Captain Denman, seems to have it exchanged for these bills, either for their convenience, or to meet their demands at the Trea-In the first place, Captain Spence's executors sury, without embarrassing the means provided for right of property; and secondly, I am fully convinc- | ble for any length of time to back our issue. with And there by any claim at all, it is only such as is not meet our demands when scarcely a foreign vesse, sometimes given to foreigners by the natives on this | leaves the colony without taking away more or les. coast, viz:-the right to occupy a small lot of land | a quantity of specie, which is exchanged for mer for the time being, or which to erect factories to fa- chandise-which merchandise is again exchanged cilitate their trade. Now admit that Captain Spence with the natives for African produce, thus leaving had such a claim, or even admit that he had pur- us without any means to replenish our specie Trees-

I have heard with some surprise that an attempt reduce the Tariff, in this I hope I have been misinformed. For to reduce our revenue at this time would at once paralize our efforts to erect Public buildings, and such other public improvements as our situation at present demands.

It is true our Treasury at present is not Bank-

one, and that of politics, power in another. While the Legislature in 1839 appropria of \$500- and the injurment of the former is not inconsistent with | up to this time not one dollar for the cose have house has just been commenced, which is designed This subject is one, gentlemen, of vital impor- to be a neat and commodious edifice, 56 feet form. tance to our very existence, and deserves your se- 34 feet wide and two stories hig . and will require is of such importance; nor that we wish to exclude In addition to this we need immediately a Jail house, British more than other traders, from any intercourse and other necessary public improvements. How with the natives of that place for the purpose of gentlemen, can these things be accomplished, trade. This is not the case. But carry out the princi- | even the absolute, and necessary expenses of the judicial control, and the axe is laid at the root of the | more than sufficient.) Our annual revenue accord. tree. Our political existence is at an end. | ing to the Treasurer's last account rendered 31st It will be the means first, of opening a thorough- | March, may be estimated at about \$2000-the orfare for the clandestine introduction of foreign mer- | idnary expenses of the Government according to the chandise into other parts of the colony, without any | present system will require annually about \$1500 possibility of controlling it. Secondly, it would close | leaving an annual balance of \$500 to be applied to the door to the suppression of vice and immorality; improvements. Since the last session of the Legislathe peace & good order of our community would be | ture, some acquisition of territory have been made to destroyed, and the government soon annihilated. | the Colony-we have purchased from the Natives, And thirdly, could not the lawless slavers claim this | and they have formally ceded to this Commonweal t very spot up to the year 1822, on the same principle | the territorial right, and judicial control over two of "undisturbed trade for a long series of years?" | sections of country south east of this, known as Certainly they could. These, gentlemen, are some | Grand Battoo and Barbarra, and we are now in treaof the results that would grow out of such an ad- ty with the natives for two other valuable points * * * * It may be proper to mention here that But may we charitably hope these are not the re- some time in the early part of last year, an arrangement was entered into betwee . he Board of Di-But it must be considered that Bassa Cove is one | rectors of the American Colomization Society, and of our regularly constituted ports of entry, where the Mississippi Colonization Society, constituting vessels of all nations (engaged in a legitimate trade) . Since an integral part of this Commonwealth, conare permitted to enter and carry on a peaceable and | sequently subject to the constitution and laws of to the laws of the commonwealth, and a compliance | Having thus briefly hinted at a few of the most

with the regulations of the port, which impose no important subjects that may claim your attention .-

you are now assembled to deliberate on matters of dens. the highest importance, for the welfare of this infant Republic, on you in a very great degree de en the future happiness of our fellow citizens. should you be moved by any mean, and base riverple-and have so imposed on your constitutents

as to have yourselves returned to this house for any sordid, or avaricious purposes hundreds may rise up to curse you-this I hope will not apply to any gentleman before me. No! I feel assured that every member of this house is actuated by higher and nobler feelings

Though some of our citizens have thought proper to impugn our motives by circulating insinuations, that some of you have procured your election to his house, and will prolong this session to the utmost extent, for no other purpose than to procure the amount allowed their representatives. Now Gentlemen is the time to show your magnanimitythrow this foul aspersion back in their teeth by your first Act. Pass a resolution reducing your pay, or that you will only receive pay for a stated time. Above all, Gentlemen, let moderation, and decorum mark all your proceedings, in which may you have Divine assistance—that the Acts of this session may

> I am Gentlemen, Your obt. servant,

JOSEPH J. ROBERTS. COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE LIBERIA HERALD.

Marshall, March 12th, 1842.

MR. EDITOR: In perusing Africu's Luminary, under date of the 18th of February last; I happened to east my eye or, the sketch of a letter published, and which is said to be from S. Wilkeson to Doet. Johnson, requesting him to give all possible information of the success of the farmers r Laberia; particularly their improvement in raising coffice. I also saw published Doct. I's answer to S. W. and under it a small piece of editorial, headed "Remark. contradicting Doct. J's. favourable observations on farm mg." In this piece of editorial, it is said "that Door. J's views on the present state of agriculture in the Colony. are altogether incorrect, and that to clear an acre of land and plant it, would cost from twenty-live to fitty dollars, and to make the lowest calculation, it would not be less than fifteen dollars."

Now Mr. Editor, I will endeavour to give the public -ome idea of the expenses of farming in this Colony; but in doing this, it is not my object to exalt one man's o pinion and throw away the other, but merely to inform cour readers of the state of things in a true light. In 1838 I made an attempt to farm at Little Bassa,

(while residing there) accordingly I cleared off seven aeres of hind and planted it down in rice, and when I had gathered in my grain, I found that the whole of my expenses in making the crop amounted to fifty bars;

In 1839 I made another attempt, and cleared off ten acres; five of which I put down in rice, and the other tive in cassado; but in cosequence of a war between the natives and Americans, I had to abandon my farm and give it over to destruction. The expense of what I had done amounted to forty bars, equal to twelve dollars. The third attempt I made to farm, was in 1841 at Marshall. I then cleared tourgeen and a half acres; sev. en and a half I put down in rice-five in cassados, and he remainder of the ground cleared I planted with sweet potatoes. The products of which, I have been for the last eight months and am now subsisting upon. The planting of these fourteen and a halt acres cost me three hundred bars, equal in value to one hundred

I have now this season, exclusive of last year's form, cleared off, but not yet planted, about twenty acres. The cost of which is one hundred bars, or forty-five dol-

This, Mr. Editor, is what I have ventured to do my- only a meagre share for herself. ell, and it is what I beg you to publish, so that those who may have a desire to make a trial of the virtue of our fertile soil, may be encouraged; and by and by you -hall hear that scores are forsaking the prusuit of the billet of camwood, and a tooth of ivory, and are expecting in a few years with a sheave in their hand to lialloo. with a prevailing voice to their friends to come over and

MITCHEL EARLY.

HIBBRIA HIBRALD.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, APRIL 29, 1842.

LEGISLATURE OF LIBERIA.

rward with so much anxiety, has convened and dismissed, and of their matchless achievements, each one may say with Casar, vini vidi vici, for as they met difficulties they bowed obeisance and passed them, leaving them to provide for themselves.

Some things were, it is true attempted. An alteration was made in some branches of the Judiciary. The Superior (?) Courts were abolished and a Circuit Court established. The matter was, however, reconsidered, and in a short time by a fell swoop, the Circuit Court was swept away and the Superior Courts again by a unanimous vote given a local habitation and a name.

Some babyish efforts were made to raise a revenueor in other words, to crush the commerce of the calony, and drive away foreign traders, by a resolution to increase the already intolerable duties of five per. cent. to eight per. cent. This resolution, as of right it ought, went to the right-about, and we are still permitted to reathe with the galling yoke of five per. cent. advalo-And as advalorem in Liberia means 100 per. cent. on the cost of goods, we are graciously permitted to trade by paying 10 per. cent. direct duties with all other cost and charges as a mild addendum.

We have neither room nor leisure at the present to discuss this matter; we shall however, avail ourselves of the first spare moment to demonstrate the foolishness and the ruinous tendency in both a political and moral point of view, of these Anti-Republican and unjust bur-

There has been a change made in the circulating me dium of the colony. The engraved bills which before were redcemable in specie, are now redocmable in cam-

This, although not a complete reform, is somewhat better than before; as the merchants can now pay their duties, which before they could not do. This will also enable the Governor to put a larger amount in circula. tion, with a more ready means of redemption. The idea of making silver the circulating medium, is prepoeterous. We have no mint, and no commerce to command specie. Those vessels that come here are in search of the article. They seldom think of bringing it to exchange for produce.

The Legislature dismissed, we believe, with pretty good feelings.

We treated ourselves a few days ago, with an excursion to Maina's Town. Our good folks here have not arisen to the full perception of the benefit of an oceasional aquatic excursion. After weeks of duil rounds of ordinary camwood and similar deadening avocations. an excursion in the country is truly exhibitarating and refreshing.

Old Mama, was as usual ceremonious and formal-We saw her as we approached the landing, cautiously eyeing the boat from the angle of a house. We no sooner struck the landing than she precipitately retired, and when we next saw her, she was gravely seated in her hall of reception. To rise on the approach of La. dies is no part of African dignity, she therefore stolidly kept her seat although the ladies were in near approach of her. As soon, however as we approached (being a favorite of old Mama's) she arose came forward, and gave the cordial African welcome, by pressing our right hand between both of hers. Then followed the snap of the finger with all the party. This concluded, the old woman conducted us to a house which she had allotted for our occupation. Notwithstanding our approach to the town was rapid, this house the best in the town was ready cleared and prepared before we were ready to enter upon its occupancy.

This house, we are inclined to believe, was creeted for the express purpose of accommodating strangers. I: is finished in the best style of native workmanship. It contains two apartments. In both there are ottomanethat is banks of earth thrown up in form of sofas, which are intended for an occasional lounge, or for sleeping at night. The ceilings are in the finest style of taste and fashion, arched and fluted with bamboo. The walls and floor like the couches, are of a greenish colored clay, rubbed hard and smoth. -

In this imperfectly described apartment, we deposited. ourselves and our stores; and atter refreshing ourselves with a few moments rest, we farther refreshed ourselves with the contents of our baskets. The natives as usual stood around, extremely surprised at our burdening ourselves with the incumbrances of knives and forks, when each of us was blest with nature's own production of two hands and ten fingers.

Old Mama was summoned to join in our repast, bu, refused to cat in our presence, she was therefore sup. plied separately with a portion which she took away, and served out in small portions to her dependants, leaving

The situation of Mama's town is one of the handsom! est that we have seen. It stands on the extreme point of the island, about a half mile from the bar. The noble St. Paul sweeps gracefully around it. The water is clear and deep, and embosomed by noble trees which dip their green foliage in the refreshing stream. There is almost always a pleasant breeze from the sea, which sweeping over the waters is sufficiently cool for one who

has been twenty years in the climate. We rowed down to the bar, back again up the stream and landed on the opposite side. On approaching the landing the boys espied a tree burdened with fruit, (monkey apple) bending down to the surface of the water, as The Legislature to whose convention we had looked if to keep it cool and ready for use. As soon as we struck the shore, a general race commenced, and soon like monkeys each one returned with a modicum of the spoil, The ladies made an excursion some distance up the "path" gathering flowers, while we contented our. selves with joining the boys in devouring the fruit.

> We arrived home about 7 o'clock in the evening after a day of pleasant and refreshing recreation.

RAINY SEASON,

The rainy season is last approaching. The natives we have heard, are profiting by the sad experience of the past year, and have determined not to neglect their crops this season. The dense and murky clouds of smoke that we occasionally see curling up the heavens. proclaim their attention to the farms. There is one thing, and only one that we fear. The great security that is given to the slave trade by the use of the American flag. and the refusal of the United States to grant the British Cruisers the right of search will, we are almost confident, lead to the establishment of baracoons and slave facto. ries in every part of the country, and by consequence to general confusion and war. It is impossible to keep the country quiet while the slave trade is actively carried on, and it is impossible to put it down while the flag of America protects it. The whole British navy would be inefficient for the purpose, for all that the slaver has to do when he is pursued is to hoist the American flag. and that secures him a safe transition for his cargo o flesh and blood.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers B. Liberia Herald

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