ADDRESS TO THE CITIZENS OF LIBERIA

Washington, January 9th 1839 To the Citizens of Monrovia, Caldwell, Millsburg,

New Georgia, and Marshall in Liberia. I am directed by the American Colonization Society, to transmit by the hand of Governor Buchanan, a copy of the Constitution of this institution, as amended and adopted at the late Annual Meeting of the Society, and to state briefly the reason for the changes made in this instrument.

For several years past, a want of concert and harmony, has been experienced in the proceedings of the friends of Airican Colonization, in different sections of the union, and since its pecuniary emparassurents, no adequate support has been extended to the general or national Society. The tendency to separate state action, has been increasing, and mutual distrust between the Parent Society and several of the auxiliary state associations, has weakened the bonds of their union. Information has been received that feelings of jealousy and unkindness towards each other have prevailed to some extent, in the minds of the citizens of Monrovia and Bassa Cove; and that those two communities which should be united in the most sacred bonds of tellowship, were disposed each to regard the other as foreign people, entitled only to that respect, and i those acts of justice and humanity, shown by the inhabitants of one independent state to another.

The friends of the cause have deemed it of vital importance to remedy these evils, and in the constitution they have recently adopted, have sought to unite the counsels and energies of the American people in this great-work of Colonization, as well as to unite the several communities in Airica under ria, shall continue to be so, and all colored perone system of government; and one uniform Code of Laws. It is hoped that the worthy and intelligent citizens of Liberia, will duly appreciate the endeavours of the Society, to promote their dearest interest, that they will cordially concur in the arrangements proposed for binding together in the closest political relations, the several communities of Liberia, and that they will sustain the executive Authority in the discharge of all his legitimate and authorized powers. The Society regards the experiment. of Colonization in Liberia, as full of promise to the colored population of the United States, and of Africa, and they trust that the citizens of Liberia will deeply feel their responsibility to their more unfortunate brethren throughout the world, as well as to that great and good Being who is the author of all freedom, independence, and prosperity among na

The gentlemen who has been unanimously elected to the high station of Governor of Liberia, enjoys the entire confidence of the Society, and his moral qualification no less than his distinguished abilities give assurance to the Directors, that his duties will be discharged with fidelity, engergy, and success. The Society cannot doubt that the citizens of Liberia will give to him their entire confidence and a generous and firm support.

By order of the Board of Directors, R. R. GURLEY,

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF

Secretary.

LIBERIA. The American Colonization Society, hereby grants to the colonies or settlements, on the Western Coast of Africa, under its care, the following Constitution.

CONSTITUTION.

Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, Millsburg, ernor, who shall be elected by the people in Marshall, Bexley, Bassa Cove, and Edina, and such manner as shall be provided by law. He such other colonies hereafter established by this | shall exercise the office of Governor, in case Society, or by Colonization Societies adopting of a vacancy in that office, occasioned by the the Constitution of the American Colonization | Governor's death or resignation, or in case the Society, on the western coast of Africa, are here by united into one government, under the same authority of Governor, during the Governor's name and style of the Commonwealth of LIBERIA. absence or sickness.

Art. 2nd. All legislative power herein granted, shall be vested in a Governor and Council, of Liberia, but all laws by them enacted, shall be subject to the revocation of the American Coloni-

zation Society. Art. 3rd. The Council shall consist of representatives, to be elected by the people of the several colonies or settlements, and shall be appointed among them, according to a just ratio of representation. Until otherwise provided, Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, and Millsburg, shall be entitled to six representatives; and Marshall, Bexley, Bassa Cove and Edina. to four representatives, to be appointed among

them by the Governor. Art. 4th. The representatives shall in all cases, except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, be priviledged from arrest, during their attendance at the session of the Council, and in going to, or returning from the same; and for any speech or debate therein they shall not be questioned in any other place.

Art. 5th Until otherwise provided by law, the Governor shall appoint, & publish the times, places, and manner of holding elections, and making returns thereof, and the time for the meeting of the Council.

Art. 6th. The Governor shall preside at the deliberations of the Council, and shall have a veto on all their Acts; provided nevertheless that if two thirds of all the members elected to colonies whereby the official and public acts of one; and that appearances gave clear evidence serve in the Council shall concur in passing a | the Governor shall be authenticated; & the cus- that it was high time for the citizens of this bill or resolution, notwithstanding the veto of tody thereof shall be committed to the Colonial commonwealth, awake to their duty in refence the Governor the same when so passed shall Secretary. become a law and have effect as such.

ed by the Governor; and it shall be the duty of | into two counties as follows:such colonial secretary to record in a book or

books, all the official acts and proceedings of the Millsburg, shall constitute one county, under the Governor of the Council: and of the Gover- name of Monsterado; Bassa Cove, Edina, Bexnor and Council to secure and preserve ely, & Marshall, shall constitute the other counthe same carefully, and to transmit a copy of ty, under the name of the county of Grand Bassa. each of such acts or proceedings to the Ameri- Art. 20th. There shall be no slavery in the can Colonization Society, from time to time, commonwealth. provided, however, that such acts and proceedings be so transmitted at least once a year.

Art 8th. A Great Seal shall be provided for the Commonwealth of Liberia, whereby the official and public Acts of the Governor, shall be authenticated; and the custody of the said seal shall be committed to the colonial secretary.

have power to provide a uniform system of mili- against himself or herself before any tribunal in the espousal of any and all the Gentlemen in tary tactics and discipline; to provide for organ- the commonwealth, by himself or herself or Liberia. After Mr. Brown sat down, the folizing, arming and discipling the malitia, and for | council. governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the Commonwealth:

To declare war in self-defence: To make rules concerning captures on land

and water: To make treaties with the severa! African

for all persons of color, and all persons now citi- and firmly establish, and secure their national zens of any part of the Commonwealth of Libes independence. sons, emigrating from the United State of America, or any district or territory thereof, with the | ment of the United States of America, are hereby approbation, or under the sanction of the Ameri- adopted as the standards of weight, measures can Colonization Society; or of any society aux. | and money within the Commonwealth of Libeilary to the same, or of any state Coloniza- ria. But the Governor and Council shall have tion Society in the United States, which shall have adopted the constitution of the American Colonization Society, shall be entitled to all the privileges of citizens of Liberia; except the same shall have been lost or forfeited by conviction of some crime.

EXECUTIVE POWER.

Art. 10th The Executive Power shall be vested in a Governor of Liberia, to be appointed by, and to hold his office during the pleasure of the American Colonization Society.

Art. 11th. The. Governor shall be Commander in chief of the army, of the navy, and of the malitia of the Commonwealth; he shall have power to call the malitia, or any portion thereof, into actual service, whenever the public exergency shall require; and he shall have the appointment of all military and naval officers, except the captains and subalterns of malitia companies, who may be elected by their respective companies.

agents as he may appoint under the direction of for the occasion.

the Society. and consent of the Council shall appoint all offi- ] cers whose appoinment or election is not otherwise specially provided for in this constitution Article 1st. The Colonies or Settlements of | Art. 14th. There shall be a Lieutenant Gov-Governor shall delegate to him the temporary

JUDICIAL POWER.

Art. 15th. The judicial power of the Commonwealth of Liberia, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Governor and Council may from time to time, ordain and establish. The Governor shall be Exofficio, Chief Justice of Liberia and as such, shall preside in the supreme court, which shall have only appellate jurisdiction. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts except the chief Justice, shall hold their office during good behaviour.

Art. 16th. A code, or uniform system of civil and criminal laws shall be provided by the American Colonization Society for the Commonwealth of Liberia.

Art. 17th. The present criminal laws in force in the several colonies, or settlements now formng the Commonwealth of Liberia, and such others as may from time to time be enacted shall constitute the criminal code of the commonwealth. Such parts of the common law, as set forth in Blackston's Commentaries, as may be applicable to the situation of the people, except as changed by the laws now in force and such as may hereafter be enacted, shall be the civil code of law for the commonwealth.

Miscellaneous.

Monrovia, New Georgia, Caldwell, and

by any citizen of the commonwealth, either

within or beyond the limits of the same. Art. 22nd. Emigration shall not be prohibited. Art. 23rd. The right of trial by Jury, and the right of petition shall be inviolate.

Art. 9th. The Governor and Council shall prosecuting or defending any civil cause for, or reformation. He thought the subject worthy

Art. 25th. Every male citizen of the age of Pledge:-21 years, shall have the right of suffrage. Art. 26th. All elections shall be by ballot.

Art. 27th. The military shall at all times, and in all cases, be in subjection to the civil power. Art. 28.th. Agriculture, the mechanic arts and tribes, and to prescribe rules for regulating the | manufactures, shall be encouraged within the commerce between the Commonwealth of Libe- | commonwealth; and commerce shall be promoria, and such tribes; except that all treaties for | ted by such methods as shall tend to develope the the acquisition of lands shall be subject to the agricultural resources of the commonwealth, approval of the American Colonization Society. | advance the moral, social and political interest of To prescribe uniform rules of naturalization | the people, increase their strength and accelerate

> Art. 29th. The standards of weight, measure, and money, used and approved by the Governthe power to settle the value of the actual currency of the Commonwealth according to the Hon. J. B. GRIPON, Hon. S. BENEDICT,

netallic currency of the United States of America. Office of the American Colonization Society, Washington, January, 14th, 1839.

I hereby certify the above twenty nine articles to be a true copy of a Constitution of the Commonwealth of Liberia, adopted by the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society, during the evening. on the fifth day of January in the year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Ninc.

> PHILIP R. FENDALL, Recording Secretary.

For the Liberia Herale .

COMMUNICATION.

several citizens of this township, on Tuesday

evening 17th January 1843, in the Providence Art. 12th. The land owned by the Society, Baptist Church, the following exercises were and all other property belonging to the Society, entered upon. On motion, resolved, that the ternal attention. As the value or impuriques of an and in the commonwealth, shall be under the Rev. A. Cheeseman take the chair. On moexclusive control of the Governor and such tion, resolved, that F. Burns serve as Secretary After invoking the Divine blessing upon the

Art. 13th. The Governor, with the advice | meeting its object was stated at length by the

On motion, resolved, that the necting be thrown open to indiscirminate debate. The Rev. Mr. Eden, then enquired whether the Society proposed to be organized, was designed, be independent of, or auxiliary to any other association for similar purposes already established. Rev. Mr. Teage answered in behalf of the chair, that it was not intended, so far as he was acquainted, to be auxiliary to any other institution—that as the other Societies formed in the colony were denominational in their character, and on that ground objectionable in the eyes, of many, it was proposed to form one entirely | hide and seek. We stated that the editor had been free from all those exceptionable features, ou a | charged with "sly dalliances," and somewhere in the broad scale, that none could make objections to. | neighbourhood of a defence or acknowledgement, we Mr. James Brown, said he had the constitu-

tion of the Temperance Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he thought with some few alterations would answer well for the Society now proposed to be formed; whereupon, on motion, resolved, that that constitution be read, which being done, it was resolved, that it be taken upon by articles Art. I. Read. Resolved that the words "of

Methodist Episcopal Church" be struck out, so as to read "Liberia Temperance Society," which were struck out, leaving it to read, "in case of sickness" simply, without, what was thought to be, that unnecessary addition.

On motion, resolved, that the constitution be opened immediately for subscribers. This resolution was prefaced by some very pertinent remarks from the mover, (Mr. J. Brown). He Art. 18th. A Great Seal be provided for the thought that the temperance cause was a good

to it. We had often heard the Temperance Art. 19th Until otherwise provided by law, cause spoken of as something fit only for lower Art. 7th. A Colonial Secretary shall be appoint- the Commonwealth of Liberia shall be divided classes in community. It reminded him of re- upon him he has furnished it himself in his bungling marks frequently made about the christian reli- and mendacious retort. If the editor however is lack. gion, by those who knew nothing of its value, ing in honesty and ingenuousness be is not wanting in

that it is something suited only to the weak and poor, not at all befiting men of mind and standing. He thought there was about so much reason in the one, as the other. He had been to America recently—he had there seen the first men in the nation, that the grounds about the Art. 21st. There shall be no dealing in slaves | seat of general government was often occupied by large concourses of people histening to temperance addresses from some of the ablest men of the senate. He had seen them lecturing on this vital subject, in the market houses and other places of public ressort, in a manner that show-Art. 24th. No person shall be debarred from | ed to him the interest they took in this great lowing names were given as subscribers to the

F. Burns, J. J. ROBERTS, J. N. Lewis, A. CHEESEMAN, S. BENEDICT, RHODY FLUNOY, B. R. WILSON, H. SIMPSON, C. PAYNE, G. P. WRIGHT, A. W. ANDERSON, C. WHEELER, Jo. CLARKE, S. PROUT,

M. BENEDICT, J. T. RICHARDSON, R. FLUNOY, On motion, resolved, that the house proceed to elect officers. The following gentlemen were J. S. PAYNE elected to fill the various offices in the Society for this J. B. GRIPON, G. BAXTER, Rev. A. CHEESEMAN, Pre-J. R. A. WILSON, J. L. Brown, sident.

His Ex. J. J. ROBERTS, Vice

Presinent. J. GRISBY. J. L. BENEDICT. JOHN N. LEWIS Esq. Secretary. Rev. James Eden Treasurer. Rev. H. TEAGE, G. P. FLUNOY, Rev. B. R. WILSON, Rev. A. W. ANDERSON, OF JAMES BROWN.

Resolved, that the proceedings of the meeting be published in the papers of colony. Resolved, that the thanks of the meeting be returned to the Chairman and Secretary for their services

Resolved, that the meeting adjourn to meet again on the following Monday night at this place. F. Burns,

Monrovia, 17th, January 1843.

H. TEAGE,

G. W. Brown,

LIEBRIA HIBRALD.

THE LUMINARY .- In the last number of this sheet the veracious editor has vouchsafed us a good share of fra-Abject is usually estimated by the attention paid to it, we hereby tender our humble acknowledgments to our worthy brother for this long & flattering expression of his opinion. We however cannot consent to follow through all the little mages of baby criticisms; we commend them to the admiration of the sniveling crew who de. lights to follow in his wake and hold up his trail, & who has learned to weep or smile on the nice calculation of dollars and cents. The sapjent editor would do well to send a few copies of this his scintillation to the next exhibition of his infant school, The numberiess inverted commas, dashes and italics which adorn and dignify the production, might excite their admiration and puzzle the brains, but for maturer readers the flush is rather puerile.

But why all this dodging and wincing. The editors movements strongly remind us of a juvenile play called expected to find him. But where is he? Like a cer tain fish (whose name we have forgotten,) which dark, ens the water by the emission of a black liquid and thus seeks to evade its pursuer; or the skunk who throws around him the impenetrable defence of his own dear smell, he fires his pop-gun in the face of his oppo nent and attempts to conceal himself in the smoke. If the editor be guilty why not confess the fact? The guilt of such a deed is of itself bad enough; but a denial trebles it. If not guilty why not set up a defence? Why Art. II. Adopted Art. III. Resolved to rest the defence on the baseless resolves of individuals strike out of this article the words "time, place, who reside at a distance from the supposed scene of the annual conference" so as to read "the second assignation. Is it usual in resorts to the bowers of Tuesday in January." All the remaining arti- love and criminal dalliance to open the teat by a public cles in that constitution were adopted, and announcement? Do men in such cases seek notoriety the pledge with the exception, in the latter, for their licentious deeds? If not how were the defenders of the words "when prescribed by a Physician" to know the fact unless indeed they possess the attribute of ubiquity. But there was a defence : was there any examination? was the washermon or the chamber maid examined? were the boys questioned? If so-if any examination at all were had on the case, where are the records of the testimony? was the inquisition held at the Church or in the editor's kitchen. That no an. tetior examination or intervew was held at nor near the editor's dormitory is what we wish him to prove. But he has studiously avoided the allegation. He remembers the advice given to sancho, and pitifully crouches behind a batch of resolves.

If any thing were wanted to rivet the charge home

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers B. Liberia Herald

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