

ernment. No, too dear is to us, too deeply interested are we in it, to hail its entrance upon a career which we believed untenable. However, far short we are of equaling some of its citizens, in love for it and a strong and enduring interest in its prosperity, we presume to vie with the greatest; we would not have engaged in this undertaking, we would raise our voice in its defense—nor participate in this celebration, but from the belief we entertain of the propriety and practicability of the position we have this day assumed.

And we would enquire of any that may oppose it,—whether they have thought upon it in all its bearings, whether they have dispassionately considered the object—whether they would have us remain in a condition in which, when necessity requires us, to speak for ourselves, neither we nor our benefactors could, with propriety? Would such persons have the great scheme of colonization approximate to a consummation devoutly wished by all its friends? and can this be done in any other way than by entering upon a national career—and casting forth upon the wings of the wind, the Declaration of our Sovereignty and Independence? What can we lose by doing not in the condition in which we were, we had all to lose, and had lost considerable, without the privilege to speak for our rights. We could as individuals speak and file; but there was none to treat officially. This power was possessed neither by the society nor our chief executive officer; and to have remained in that condition was to throw back for years the revival of our race, to throw us to an indefinite period the completion of the national fabric.

Do we lose the aid of the society? do they, after having recommended this government to take "his step," discontinue their humane operations? Have they not in strong language, assured us of their countenance? and how can we disbelieve them, have they ever deceived us? have they ever advised us to do that which they at the same time knew we could not safely undertake? we have more confidence in that society, than with all other well-wishers to the cause, see it is the only plan that can be adopted. There is no reason to apprehend a cessation of the principles and form of a republican government; these are too highly appreciated, and too long have Liberians been accustomed to their enjoyment to sacrifice them for any consideration whatever. We have no desire to unite with any government or national power, any farther than friendly and commercial treaties will unite us. We have not taken this step for any purpose of the kind, in this we know we echo the sentiments of all Liberians; it is our joy to remain as we are; While no sacrifice will be to dear to maintain existing friendship, and secure it where it does not exist, we wish to be an adjunct to no government; These things all have learned that we are acquainted with the discussions to which this subject has given rise; theretofore, because Liberia has this day placed herself in a condition, in which while her friends are doing what their friendship and humanity prompt them to, she can act for herself; we congratulate her. We had with feelings of delight the separation of her *monarchs*—we behold the birth-day of her nationality: the thundering of cannon, the unfurling of your flag, the unusual delight felt by all Liberians, the smiling countenances of the citizens of the Republic, tell us that the long oppressed and fallen are about to resuscitate and breath the breath of nationality once more. Mar it ye nations of Africa—heat ye descendants of our fathers—bear it in your migrations, speak it in your wretched huts, until it becomes greatly known, through the length and breadth of this devoted land. Not for ourselves only, but we return from oppression and degradation, with the great blessings of christianity and civilization, to circulate among you. O! ye spirits of once broken-hearted parents, whose animated hearts wept blood, when your sons and daughters were by ruthless hands torn from you, God permitted it thus to be for your good, and lo! we come laden with good for your wretched posterity. And may it not be told to them who are not of our race? are there not some who, having heard of our once miserable condition, are disposed to sympathize with us? will not the trouble then, in which we have come entitle their sympathy? When we tell the nations of the earth with we are here, when we refer them to the impossibility of our becoming any thing like men, to the land from which we came, when we tell them, if they need be told, of the obstacles and opposition that lay in our way, preventing us from rising to the dignity of men, and enjoying the privileges peculiar to such beings, will they retain their suspicion? When the christian religion ceases to exert its sanctifying influences, when it ceases to kindle and refine humanity, we may tell our tale of wo and not be heard; but from the pure benevolence and christianity that exist now, we feel sanguine that none will object to our position; if they do, they have only to object, they can meet nothing from us but the appeals of helpless infants, praying for the privilege to live and enjoy themselves in the land of their fathers.

Encouraging ourselves with these reasonable anticipations, we can hardly restrain our feelings, when we think of the day we celebrate—the birth day of Liberia's national existence! the day on which she breaks the long silence in this land and tells who she is. The difficulties encountered, and borne down by this modern phoenix—the war in which we have been constrained to engage in this land—all conspired to fill our hearts with gratitude and ambition: gratitude, to the God of hosts, whose wisdom directed and whose power preserved us; and to that body of American philanthropists whom He made his instruments. Ambition, to prove to the world the colored man's susceptibility of equal improvement and refinement with the white, is no longer a problem; and ambition to preserve unvarnished the memories of those veterans, who, by their bravery and patriotism bequeathed us this

isolated government, when they took their departure from among us. It would afford them uncontaminated pleasure were they yet with us, to join in celebration of this auspicious day. They longed for the arrival of the time when it would be proclaimed unto the world that Liberia is a sovereign and independent Republic; but they never anticipated the arrival of the period so soon, when there would be hoisted on Montserrado a national flag, with a lone star, which after ages of wandering, has at length found its own orbit, and probably it would not but for the most providential circumstances which have impelled us to the assumption of this position.

Were these veterans with us to rehearse on this position, their toils and difficulties, in maintaining this position; were they here to speak of their signal victory over their foes, how would it augment our gratitude but while theirs is a nobler celebration we will hand down their names and deeds to unborn generations.

Follow citizens, we have arrived at an important crisis—We have assumed a position which, if properly maintained, is only the beginning of a more glorious and prosperous era in the history of this Republic; but it is a position requiring for its new responsibilities and important departments, suitable men to give it that *efficiency* so heartily desired by all its friends. It cannot be expected that this great undertaking will proceed well without proper management. Difficulties peculiar to all works of importance will arise; and when men of high principles will be required to end with them, others, especially set apart and qualified, will be required at all times to direct in our national affairs.

"We cannot be masters, nor all masters  
Cannot be truly followed."

It is true, in a Republican form of government all the citizens are eligible to office but all are not qualified or otherwise suitable for all offices, therefore it is hoped that our republican principles will not be abused by a carelessness to the dignity and prosperity of that government, with which Providence has provided us. Let the whole republic then be cautious and alive to her interest; then will her most important officer be filled with men competent for the duties assigned them, and upon whose faithfulness she can rely. It is to such men that we look, (not for deviations from justice and the constitution of the Republic, but) to honor the former, and by watchfulness see that the latter, in the integrity of its principles, is adhered to by all who have sworn allegiance thereto, and hold offices under it. Painful must it be to every patriot, to behold at any time the perversion of those principles upon which the stability and prosperity of the government hang, impossible as it is for such deviations and corruptions to pass without leaving a blighting effect; and if in a few years the Republic of Liberia is not seen receding back into the darkness from which she has just emerged, it will be owing to her strict adherence to those principles, so intimately connected with her political existence. The power with which your officers are endowed, emanates from you, and your is the duty to see that it is not perverted to the injury of the Republic. But fellow citizens, great privileges usually involve corresponding duties: such is the fact in your case; and if all the power with which your officers are invested, emanated from you, yours is the duty to harmonize with them, and obey those laws and political regulations, enacted and adopted from time to time by them. It is indispensably necessary that you support your officers and your government by obedience to its laws. Your officers cannot carry into execution any law, without the support of the people, especially if its execution be contested. This duty is not peculiar to a few, but to all that are citizens; and I presume it is thus felt by all, when there should be among us some who would leave those shores; such characters have lived in Liberia, and may again, who, it cannot be expected will be otherwise than the exception, at the prodding of the R. officers and its-betters, who ever a party of advice. But you who consider that you are the ones who are entitled to be the *masters*—are saying the foundation of a government, is not to be denied and enjoyed by your latest generations, must feel the importance of obedience to the laws of your country. The consequences of national dismemberment, have been set by different parts of the world to their great injury; and we would admonish you to let the past warn you of what your condition will be, if you countenance an irregular course in any tendency to mar the peace of the public. Consider, that all the benefits of the proper management of this Republic, accrue alike to all; protecting their rights and securing to them their civil and religious liberty, and when the laws are energetically enforced, there will be no murmur. Hitherto, to some extent, it would appear that laws were enacted for no purpose, but the change in your government requires that the subsequent administration of the laws be marked with efficiency and energy; therefore, Liberians prepare yourselves for the great duties, and responsibilities which are imposed upon you by the new position you have this day assumed. Call up the spirit of the American patriots and let similar feelings possess your bosoms, and break forth into many exertion, and yours will be the honor of having founded and reared up a Republican government for the oppressed of our race. The vastness of the undertaking makes it too much for any portion less than the whole community, to sustain and conduct prosperously;—therefore, it is highly important that we be *united*. Great evils have been entailed upon nations,—mighty kingdoms and empires have fallen to rise no more, by discord which ultimately genders into anarchy and bloodshed and destruction. The sanguine politician, having an eye upon what is the dreadful consequent of the want of union, was enabled to predict, as if he caught the true spirit of prophe-

cy,—"United we stand, divided we fall." This principle may well be denominated the national *principle*,—the regular beatings of which are indispensably necessary to the vitality of a nation. If a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand; and as sure as these words are true, so will the destruction of this Republic be, if union be not maintained among us. Be united Liberians; understand one another; know your common object; let all animosities fall this day at the foot of our staff; and declare hence forward, we be brethren aiming at the common good. Those are not the only promises from which we would infer the future prosperity or indestructibility of this Republic;—for the history of nations teaches us there are other indispensable virtues, from among which we will extract only two:—

One is *industry*—the origin of all physical, mental, and political advancement; the foundation of all national grandeur;—forgetfulness of which is an impossible barrier to all personal or national prosperity and happiness. It is utterly inconsistent with the course of Providence, to expect these without the employment of the means ordained for their production—*and* accordingly attended to by all, thriving nations. I need not remind you of the importance of agriculture to a nation's prosperity, you have only to cast your eye whence you came, and contemplate the riches extracted, by the industrious from a soil in few respects better than yours. With a country capacious and fertile, abounding with products much demanded by some nations, what can hinder you from becoming prosperous and happy but idleness, the bane of society and fruitful cause of many evils?

Menial improvement is also absolutely necessary; "Knowledge is power,"—is an axiom worthy of attention. The enlightened of all ages have paid becoming attention to it, and even to this day, we behold them offering their petitions and adoration at the shrine of wisdom, acknowledging their indebtedness to her for all that is good and virtuous in the transactions of the affairs of life. While all nations thus show their estimate of knowledge, shall we be dormant?

Shall we enter the political world without the qualifications necessary to maintain our national existence? Shall we, if we ever gain a footing in that world, remain where we are at, when all nations are moving forward in this respect? Was ever there a time in the history of Liberia, when men of intellectual stamp were more needed? It requires no small portion of knowledge to conduct the affairs of people. Here, then, is room for improvements, and for the exercise of laudable ambition. Here is an adequate stimulus to apply to ourselves and our children.

In reflecting upon our present condition and the new career just entered upon, it would not be improper to enquire by whose aid and protection, we have been sustained, and delivered from the imminent dangers that have at different times, gathered around and threatened us with destruction. We feel it just to acknowledge that it is not owing to any skill or might in us, that we have succeeded, notwithstanding these oppositions, but to the protection and aid of that Being, that rules the nations, and holds the destiny of each in his hand; and, if when we look back, we are led to exclaim "what hath God wrought," we see every reason that induced us to trust in Him, occupying the same place and teaching us it is our duty to do so in future.

I can do nothing better in concluding this address, than to direct your attention to the propriety of depending upon the Omnipotent arm of the Almighty. Remember that He hath said, and what he says is true, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." A tenacious adherence to the principles of the christian religion—obedience to its precepts, encouraging to its institutions and ordinances, among ourselves and children, will, with the other indispensables mentioned above, insure stability and prosperity to this Republic, while its happy influences will out go to water and make glad the *sahara* around us. But, fellow citizens, the reverse of these things, and an indulgence in national sin, will not only disgrace us in the estimation of the good and virtuous of the world, but bring down upon us the judgments of the God of holiness. We have only to enquire of you, Liberians, shall the Republic be prosperous and advance in national importance? Doubtless it is destined to do so; but may we not return and make it a reproach unto the world. Naught should induce us with a greater resolution to advance that arduous but glorious work, than the consideration of the sins we have committed, and the consequent penalties, failed to do so! Eternal and merciful judgment will be attached to our names. Again, will you not endeavor to wipe away the opprobrium from the colored race, and prove to the world that it is equally susceptible, with any other of mental culture, and good government? If Liberians have enemies, if a *republic* would prompt to laughter at the non-success of this Republic, how would the joy of such be augmented, to hear of a failure in this undertaking! O! Liberians, think of these considerations; and let the thought insure your hearts with a holy and indomitable resolution to advance your cause, that the Republic may be safe and respected by the world, that the light of that lone star, may illuminate this benighted land; and, as you fade away from among the living, yours will be the great satisfaction of seeing your descendants established and happily situated, in a government founded and reared with

great exertion and rendered permanent by the strict observance of the principles of good government, by your, their parents whose memories will be ennobled in their estimation with a halo of never fading glory.

For the Liberia Herald.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Having seen a queer publication in the Liberia Herald, of the 6th August, Headed "Wonderful trial and verdict," in the case of Tobias Outland, for the alleged murder of J. H. Stevens, purporting to be the true proceedings of that very interesting and excited trial which was recently decided in the court of this country and town. And in which my name and that of the Rev. B. R. Wilson's appearing as Attorneys for the accused. Seeing this, I expected to have read a true and fair statement, of the proceedings at the trial, as is very common throughout this world, but instead of that, I found on perusal, a great part of the novel publication to be defective, and in many places untrue. Therefore do pronounce the same to be such, as well as ridiculous in the extreme, for no set of men possessing common sense, would attempt to publish a trial at law of any kind, commencing and ending as this is done. It shows, as by their own words, that they were thrown into such a perplexity from the disappointment of their exalted victim, that their *senses* left them, or they would not have stated the doings of the court, the verdict of the jury, with decision of the Judges &c, before any of the numerous depositions were brought in, starting in the old exploded depositions, of Fanny Bolton, and Venus Hall, which were taken at *Sierra Leone*, leaving out that which they gave here at *Monrovia*, because they were more in favor of the accused. The greater part of the depositions, are entirely put from that of the original witness, and several entire depositions not produced, by Samuel Parsons, which is the 8th in order, and several in the *ipsis* in glorified publication as first. What *was* held respecting the part I performed as one of the Attorneys for T. Outland, I assure them I feel neither afraid or ashamed of, therefore I care nothing of the sarcastic attempts of this *clerk* to try and belittle me, by saying that my time, signifying my whole time, was spent in reading, in order to invalidate the evidence produced at court, and to destroy that of Fanny Bolton, the most positive evidence, so considered which was before the court. The same party attempt is made against Mr. B. R. Wilson, endeavoring thereby, to enliven the feelings of the Superintendent of the M. E. Mission against him, by putting the words that he did not intend to put himself under any man &c. But these petty attempts at vilifying myself and colleagues, can do no harm, in any place where we are known. Neither myself or Mr. Wilson presume that we possess the qualifications of a Cicero, a Brougham, a Kennington, Webster or a Bernal, yet according to the circumstances of Liberia, we had to perform the part of the *lawyers*, and have been instrumental in saving the life of a fellow citizen; the best could do no more. It's true I employed much of my time in reading of several *suits*, where from circumstantial evidences which seem almost amounting to positive, inasmuch that both in *England*, *Germany*, *Scotland*, and in the *United States*, the decisions of the courts, being given against the accused, they were executed, but after their trials proofs have been adduced of their innocence; but what remedy could then be afforded? I say none, therefore I endeavored to give all caution to the jury which I possibly could think of. Reminding them in the language of the immortal *Bacon*, never to bring in a verdict, *scilicet*, *as to take the life of man, woman, or child when there remains any doubt whatever*, respecting the *engagement* of the Jury, the Attorneys had to keep very bright eyes upon the men called up; here I might say much, but suffice it by saying, that with the rejection of ten, the country left me twelve good and honest men, principally from among our best and most independent *Farmers*; men who true to their oaths, considered well on the case of which they were to decide, who, after investigating the evidences, for nearly 24 hours, returned with their verdict, which read as follows: "We the Jurors after due consideration of the case now pending between the prisoner T. Outland, and the Commonwealth of Liberia, do to the best of our judgment declare that the said T. Outland, according to the evidences presented to us, is not guilty of the crime of *Having acknowledged their agreement upon their verdict, they were discharged, the prisoner was accordingly released."*

No, I appeal to the whole civilized world, could anything be more fair? Are we not constitutionally bound to be tried by our peers according to the laws of the land. Where then is this great sin, if all and the Rev. B. R. Wilson have committed. For which, after serving our country for years, and recently too, in giving it a wholesome *Constitution*, and in less than two weeks after signing the same, to have our names put in print by a *Mob* *gang* so as to be defamed, brought, the world over as *enemies*, to the *peace, prosperity, and dignity* of Liberia, and that would be watched by every good citizen, therefore should be punished with little or no power, and should be avoided by all that expect the prosperity of this Republic. But the greatest inconsistency in this mischievous intentioned affair, is that this should be sanctioned by any man professing to be a follower of Jesus, or even supposed to be deserving a seat either in our council or courts. "O shame where is thy blush, O inconsistency, can thou not hide thy deformed face. But for the credit of Liberia, be it said that the people generally know how to appreciate the value of its citizens, for both S. Benedict, and B. R. Wilson, have often been tried in the balance and never yet been found wanting: no they have often as in this late *Law* case, come out triumphant. To the sad discomfiture of their oppo-

