of those territories.

A messenger is now here from the Chiefs of the Vey country soliciting the interposition of this Government in settling the dispute and wars, which are represented as producing great distress among the people. I beg gentlemen, that you will give this subject early attention, that the messenger may be dispatched, as early as possible, with such communications as you may direct to be transmitted to the chiefs.

I have the honor herewith to lay before you, for your consideration a Communication I received a few weeks since from the cheifs of Tumbo, asking the protection of this government, and to be received within its jurisdiction by the annexation of the whole of their territory to the Republic,—and requesting that one Will Buckler—who, some years ago settled among them, but has since succeeded in collecting around him a large force, composed principally of strangers, and now threatens the extermination of the original inhabitants, and who has recently committed, with impunity, several cruel murders in the country—be moved from the territory.

I beg also to submit to your consideration the propriety of adopting measures to relieve the Authorities and people of Grand Bassa from the annoyances of Fisherman Grando, who, by some means, has obtained an influence in that country—though himself a Pickaniny Cess man,—which he exerts improperly by creating difficulties and disturbances, sometimes of a very serious character among the people:—which greatly interrupt friendly intercourse, and not a little retard the progress of civilization among the inhabitants of that district.

During the past year I had an interview with Grando, at his town, and explained to him the folly of his course, and the pernicious effects of his conduct, not only upon his own people, but upon the happiness and prosperity of the people of the whole country. I assured him that the government could not longer tolerate such conduct; and, unless he changed his course, legal proceedings would be instituted against him. To all of which he listened attentively:—and, with seeming penitence, readily admitted the error of his course, and the wrongs he had been guilty of, and promised never again to interrupt the peace and harmony of the people.

I had scarcely left the country, however, before his evil genius got the better of him; and he has since been as mischievous as ever—and has recently been guilty of sundry gross infractions of the law, and of using threats against the local authorities of Grand Bassa County.

This man Grando has given the government more trouble decidedly, than any other headman, or chief within the limits of the Republic. He has never yet been made properly to atone for the murder of Governor Finley, and rather thinks himself above the law—but the time has fully arrived that he be taught his obligations to the government; and convinced of the majesty of the laws.

Gentlemen, in connection with this subject, and as a means of counteracting Grando's baneful influence, and checking his bad practices I would suggest that the Legislature authorise the establishment of a settlement at the Cove, near his town—which will bring him under the immediate eye and control of the authorities, and which will also have a good effect upon his people by bringing them more closely in contact with civilized habits. There are other considerations, gentlemen, of a commercial nature, which seem to favor the establishment of a settlement at that place. Its commercial advantages, as a convenient landing place especially, are generally admitted; and the idea of forming a settlement there to secure these, is by no means new. And I think no difficulty need be apprehended in carrying out the measure proposed. Indeed many of the citizens of Edina, Bassa Cove, and Bexley have expressed to me a desire to locate there, and will do so immediately provided the government will make them small grants of land, and extend to them certain assistance specified in a communication addressed to me on this subject—which I have the honor herewith to lay before you—and which I beg to recommend to your favorable consideration.

Gentlemen, during your recess I have used my best endeavours for the preservation of harmony and friendly relations with all nations, by encouraging the intercourse of foreigners—without distinction of country—and by extending to them every facility in my power for conducting trade with the citizens of this Republic—and it would have been a source of much gratification to me, if the conduct of all those traders had been such as to enable me to assure you that, on their part, a similar desire existed to maintain a good understanding with the government. Such, however, in every instance, has not been the case;—and I am pained to have to inform the Legislature that unworthy attempts have been made by one or two of these traders to alienate the affections of certain native tribes within the jurisdiction of this Republic—to induce them to disavow their obligations to this government—and to incite them to insubordination; and indeed, encourage them to actual hostilities. Means were adopted, however, as far as possible to counteract these pernicious influences—to preserve the attachment of the natives—and to maintain the influence and authority of the government over them. But gentlemen, to obviate the consequences of a repetition of such practices, the passage of a law providing adequate punishment for such offences may be necessary.

I am also sorry to have to say that some difficulties have arisen in regard to the operation of the law of the Republic regulating Navigation, Commerce, and Revenue.

One Mr. David Murray, the agent of Messrs Laurie Hamilton &Co, London, a few months since landed a quantity of merchandise at certain points, on our coast, in direct violation of said law; at the same time informing the inhabitants that he had received express instructions from his employers not to acknowledge the authority of the Liberian government over said points of territory, and that the government, or its officers, if they thought proper to assume the responsibility, might seize his vessel and the goods thus landed.

Upon this information from the officers of the revenue—who understanding the policy of the government, and anxious themselves to avoid any collision with British merchants by using compulsory measures to compel obedience to the laws, communicated the facts to the Treasury Department, and asked to be instructed as to the course they should pursue—I addressed a note to Captain Murray stating to him my earnest desire to avoid the necessity of seizing his property; and calling his attention to an interview I had had with him, in the early part of the year, on the subject of the jurisdiction of this government &c

At which time he assured me that in future he would respect the laws of the Republic, and would give no further cause of complaint. In reply to which, I received from Captain Murray on the 23rd; of October the following.

"Sir:—In answer to your letter of the 3rd inst, I beg to say that I am instructed by Messrs Laurie Hamilton &Co: not to pay any duties on goods to be landed on the Kroo coast, they having laid their claim to exemption therefrom before Viscount Palmerston, and from a copy of a letter received by them bearing the date 2nd July, 1850, Commodore Fanshawe had been instructed to institute enquiries into the matter, and he may be expected up in all this month for that purpose."

It has already been intimated to me that representations had been made to Her Majesty's Government respecting the exercise of jurisdiction, by this government, over certain territories on our leeward coast, and that the Liberian Authorities, in said communications, were accused of imposing unreasonable and unjust restrictions upon British commerce; and that Commodore Fanshawe would probably visit Liberia soon to ascertain the facts in relation to these representations. In view of this and other considerations, and especially to convince British merchants of our desire to cultivate and maintain a good understanding with them—I informed Captain Murray that compulsory measures would not be resorted to until I had had the honor of an interview with the Commodore;—in the mean time, the government would hold him responsible for the duties accruing on all goods which he might land within its jurisdiction: and that it would not be difficult for me to prove, in the most convincing manner, to Commodore Fanshawe, as well by solid reasons, as by the authority of the best authors, who have written on the law of nations and the judgment of civilized states in general—the right of his government to exercise sovereignty over the territory in question.

Upon what grounds Messrs Laurie Hamilton &Co. claim exemption from paying duties on goods landed, on what they term the kroo coast, or at any point within this Republic, I am not fully informed. With respect to the said Kroo Coast, Captain Murray is well aware that, that territory is within the jurisdiction of this Republic—that the right of soil and the political jurisdiction over it were obtained for a just and valuable consideration, and that it is held by titles as fair and unequivocal as any human property can be held: and that the aboriginal inhabitants, of that territory voluntarily recognized their allegiance to this government. I am aware that attempts have been made there, as well as at other points within our jurisdiction, to induce the native chiefs to disavow their formal and solemn Conventions with this government—and to accuse the Liberian Authorities of misrepresentation and fraud in treading with them for lands.

But, I thank God as far as I know, at our hands, gentlemen, the natives, have no just cause of complaint. Would that all with whom they have had to do could say as much. But ah! how solemn the reflection, that on the great day of retribution, what thousands of these poor benighted heathen will appear at the bar of judgement to arraign those, who would attach to the Liberian Authoriteis frauds, of which they themselves have been guilty. But I entertain the hope and belief that the people of Liberia will then appear in the whiteness of innocence,—and that they will not only be free from all accusations of injustice to these their unfortunate and degraded brethren, but that the testimonials of their acts of justice, kindness, and benevolence towards them will plead the cause of their uprightness in all their dealings with them, as it is now authenticated by records upon earth.

On the 11th, ultimo I received a dispatch from Commodore Fanshawe informing me that he had been directed by his government to visit Liberia for the purpose of conferring with the Authorities respecting the complaints which have been made by British merchants, who occupy trading establishments on the coast of Liberia; but in consequence of circumstances of considerable importance on the southern part of his Command, he could not at an early period visit Monrovia in person—but to avoid delay he had deputed Commander Patten, the Senior officer of the Division of Her Majesty's cruisers on the north coast, to confer with this government on these matters.

Under cover, from Commodore Fanshawe, I received the same day a dispatch from the Right Honorble Viscount Palmerston, Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, calling the attention of this government to the said complaints of British merchants engaged in trade to the Coast of Africa, who represent that Regulations have been established by this government; the tendency and effect of which is greatly to obstruct and cripple the commercial operations of British merchants.

His Lordship has been pleased to enumerate in said dispatch the principle complaints, which have been addressed to Her Majesty's Government by British merchants engaged in trade on the Liberian coast. Some of these complaints are founded upon certain provisions of the law of the Republic regulating Navigation, Commerce, and Revenue,—the tendency and effect of which, they say greatly obstruct and cripple the commercial operations of British subjects.—

Others are mere fabrications—vile accusations without the slighest shadow of truth to sustain them—charging the government with adopting measures and restrictions, which I may confidently say never existed, except in the imagination of some of the servants, whom these merchants have employed on the Liberian coast, who, doubtless, have been making, from time to time, to their employers these gross misrepresentations.

1st. Of the Navigation, Commerce, and Revenue law, pased December 26th 1849, they complain that no foreign vessel is allowed to unload at any ports except Monrovia, Marshall, Grand Bassa and Sinoe—that the import duties to be levied under said Act are in many cases excessive, in regard to some articles amounting to 30 per cent, and that these duties are levied not on the cost price merely, but on the value realized by the actual sale of the goods; that no goods shall be admitted without the production of a declaration containing minute details not usually required in any other country, as to their origin, their destination, and their nature; and that although the 17th. Section of the 4th, Article of said law authorizes the Collector of Customs to relax the stringent provisions of the 2nd Section, in regard to the four ports of entry, by allowing him to grant official permits to land goods at Factories owned by citizens of Liberia on any part of the Liberian coast; this facility is not afforded to British subjects, and that thus an advantage is given to Liberian citizens which is unjustly and injuriously with-held from British subjects.

These, gentlemen, will of course claim your attention, and I doubt not, but that you will give them serious consideration, and willingly remove every restriction which either unjustly or unnecessarily obstruct the commercial intercourse of British, or the merchants of any other country.

2ndly: It is represented, by these said merchants, to Her Majesty's Government—that the Liberian Government exercises sovereignty over territory fraudulently obtained from the native proprietors—that it designates the aboriginal inhabitants of the coast as aliens, and endeavors to prevent British subjects from transacting business with them, except through the medium of citizens of Liberia—meaning, I suppose, those who immigrated from the United States;—that it is required that a license should be taken for each trading station at a cost of £270:—That the Liberian Authorities monopolize the market for two days, in

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