which they have no concern, to a degree which contempt for their ignorance, and a consideration of the condition of their early life, alone render tolerable.—Have systematically and pertinaciously opposed our government; have abused all the indulgences shown to them; have either from ignorance or malevolence endeavoured to impress upon the minds of the natives, that these indulgences were a grant, either of fear on our part, or to the demand of a right on theirs: They have used all their ingenuity, and no little of their owners' money to excite the natives to opposition to our laws, and resistance of our authority—and when we have been at no little expense to settle hostilities among them, they have been personally, and by agents and emissaries secretly at work, to defeat and render abortive our attempts. They make very large presents to the Chiefs; much larger perhaps than they would do, was no American settlement with custom house regulations near, and then to enrage the Chiefs against our laws, they tell them *I would give you plenty tother thing, no more 'Merica man make duty too high, spose no be for duty palaver you can get plentty tother things—you make rich too much*. In a word they are just such in their moral habits—social maxims and mental capacity, as one might fancy vengeance would spare, when virtue is to undergo an ordeal, and society to be tortured.

That this picture is not overdrawn, we leave it to the few better informed and better bred of the English traders to determine; and we submit it with very little concern to the judgement of the commanders and officers of H. B. M. Cruisers on the coast.

Now it is from these chiefly, from a Townly—a Murray—a Pannel—a Henderson—and a Lawrence from whom the people in England and the writer of the extracts derive their information. Sworn enemies to Liberia—firm and fast friends of the slave trader, men some of whom have used their owners property to excite the natives to insubordination and hostility against the Liberian Authority;—Men, who, while they are eternally carping about the few hundreds which Americans owe them, are silent about the uncounted thousands which they have thrown away among, and which are due to them by the natives. And why? simply because among the natives they are free from all the restraints of law, order and decency—a liberty so congenial with their *unsophisticated* nature; whilst among the Americans they are compelled to observe in some degree, these to them odious regulations. The American settlers learned in the land of their youth and from the few book they have read, what is due from man to man; and established here as men, they endeavour to demand and reciprocate this right. This, however, does not suit these steam-made gentry. They have heard we were in subjection to a dominant class in the country where we were born—that the laws abandoned us to the tender mercies of just such conscience-wanting and virtue-abandoned beings as they are; and forgetting how they pined without sympathy in the potato fields of Ireland, and famished unheeded on the quays of Great Britain, they would look upon and treat us with the disdain, with which they are regarded by the respectable at home. Who are these traders, in the name of justice and candor, we ask, who are these Captains, that so much reliance is placed upon their adverse testimony, when Liberia is concerned? Are they men whom their employers invite to a social meal, or a social chat? Do they look upon the interior of their owners' parlor? Are they ever in their owners' presence, except when touching their hats, they say "I have arrived sir?—or when beckoned to the door of the office only to hear, here are your papers, get to sea as soon as you can?" Is there one in ten, who can tell whether Vattel was a North American Indian or a Chinese? Whether Blackstone wrote on law or physiology? Whether there is any difference, abstractedly considered, between the sovereign rights of a nation having only ten ships of war, and another having a thousand? Put the question to nine in ten, and the unhesitating answer will be, the nation with a thousand ships, has more right—because it has the most power! Power with them is the measure of right; and that state of society is to them most delightful, and most to be desired, in which each individual will, is allowed to be law. Hence their silence about the indebtedness of the natives, and their eternal carping at us; and hence their constant foolish threats to bring upon us the power of the British Navy if we attempt to restrain them.

But these traders delight in competition and they delight also in boasting. Each one has an owner worth more millions than Liberia has citizens. And he is sent out to break up all the Liberians take from them all the trade and gather it into his own hand. He proceed, down the coast, finds squatting here and there along the beach, an American loafer just as you would find loafers on the quays and around the ginshops in London or Liverpool.

As his object is to set up opposition he avoids every respectable factory, and consorts with these loafers. They tell him fine tales about the employement they had lately left—how much oil they bought for Mr—and how he did not pay them—and how they left him, and how they only want a supply of goods to purchase an immense quantity of oil and in a very short time.

The bait is taken; and large sums of money, or amounts of goods are landed to an individual whom no Merchant in Liberia would credit a farthing!! The foreigner proceeds down the coast, returns for oil, but finds none. The next we hear is a thunder of abuse of all Liberia for consequences which his own malicious act brought upon him. But perhaps we shall be told we are sustaining the allegations of dishonesty contained in the extract. Well let it be so. If truth sustain them we are content. But if we admit a lamentable fact, applicable alike to Liberia and to England, and the writer of the extracts admits it as to us, but denies, or withholds the declaration of it as to his own people, it will show that at least, in one respect we are in advance of him; that is in candor and ingenuousness.

We have said enough of the character of these men. A few words will suffice for their conduct. Instances are in the recollection of many present in which English traders were warned in regard to certain proceeding which it was supposed they were about to enter upon. What has been the consequence—Why they have supposed that those who advised them had an interest in doing so—and have not only pushed more vigorously than before, in the course they had intended to adopt, and against which friendly warning had been given them, but have actually made strife by meanly rehearsing what was told them from the purest motives and in the secrecy of friendship. English traders come here and sell goods to merchants in this place to be paid for in produce at the leeward factories. They take orders on these factories. When they arrive there—they retain the orders until they have purchased all they can persuade the factors to sell them. They then present the orders which they *know* cannot be paid, because they have purchased the Oil that was to pay them. They quietly pocket the orders return here and demand payment. Will the English traders deny that this has been their custom? Many of our merchants have been sadly embarrassed by this mode of procedure. Recently our people have learned better in this matter, and when they have chosen to keep the orders quietly in the pocket until they had purchased the Oil for which the orders had been given, they have been as quietly told—you were to receive payment at the factory, and as you chose to keep back the order until you had put it out of the power of the drawer to pay you, you may keep it in your pocket until you can get your money. Thus occasionally the biter is bitten. But O what grimaces and anathemas and imprecations upon all Liberia—what abuse of the government that it does not at once manacle these villanous merchants, and sell them for the payment of debts, which the clamorous creditors themselves put it out of their power to pay!!

We have already drawn out our article to a length we did not at first anticipate: we must therefore be brief in what we may further say.

In relation to charges against the President that he did not apprise Celse that he could not purchase Palm Oil at Cape Mount, it is only necessary to state that it is wholly groundless. Mr. Celse who is daily expected from France will we are sure contradict the stupid charge if requested to do so. The President lost nearly a whole day endeavoring to get an interview with Mr. C. to warn him against his course, but could not. He went on board his vessel and requested that his Captain would say to him that he would not collect Cargo of Oil in that region in five years: Mr. Celse has since confessed he received the message, but thought the President was only anxious he would *remove his seat of trade to Monrovia*. The Gallinas affair is next and last: and thus that matter stands—The natives there agreed to sell the lands and cede all territorial and political jurisdiction over them. The price demanded was more than at that time could be conveniently paid. Arrangements were put on foot to meet their demand. In the interim, Parker, who had been left there by the English Commodore, fearing that the arrangements might affect his interest, and terminate his authority induced the natives by false representations to retract from a part of the agreement, shrewdly concluding that a recession by them from a part of the stipulations, would induce a like a retreat by the President from the remainder.

The remarks in relations to cotton are really too stupid and contradictory of the other to merit a reply. Are the people really so cunning as to cheat all the Englishmen who come here, and yet so stupid as not to know, that to induce foreign merchants or manufacturers or agriculturalists to prosecute any enterprise here, which demands an outlay of capital it must be made lucrative to those who are thus expending their money? If the Agent of this cotton establishment chose to adopt measures and institute regulations with which the people generally could not comply—which they foresaw would prove ruinous to the experiment—which inevitable ruinous result they not only foresaw but foretold to said Agent, and to which said Agent replied "I am authorised to do as I choose and I have made my arrangement, and I am satisfied with them If; all this is true—shall blame be thrown upon the people? Now we are prepared to prove not only all this, and that by J. K. Straw himself, but we are prepared to prove further that other and much more feasible arrangements were proposed to Mr. Straw, which would have met the concurrence of all classes, which Mr S. approved, and which he was only prevented from adopting—so he said, by the necessity of returning to England. Mr. Straw will be out shortly and we use his name that he may correct us if we have misstated.

We have thus gone hastily over the whole ground of complaint and charges. We have stated that if society here is low, it is not lower than in other settlements and colonies of much older date upon this coast. If religion is here only hypocrisy, morality a pretence and a desire to improve the natives a sham, there is at least the merit of a resemblance of these desirables: a merit which others cannot boast, and that the character of our assailants giving no claim to credit, we demand a full investigation of the charges, and a comparison of the points upon which we are condemned with the same points in other communities upon this coast.

Since the above went to press we have obtained further information in respect of the above charges. We learn that it can be proven, that the President previously to the warning sent to Mr. Celse, the Frenchman, by his Captain, had in person apprised Mr. C. of the loss to which he would expose himself, by landing his cargo at Cape Mount. This was done before the President went to Gallenas

On returning then, to Cape Mount finding Mr. C. landing goods he repeated his warning through his Captain. In regard to the Gallinas, we have learned, and it is proper we should remark, that the natives were prompted to demand in addition to their original stipulations, that this Government should undertake to settle the slave war which then raged in the interior, and reduce the thousands revolted slaves to their original servitude to their masters. To the first part of the proposition there might be no objection, provided it had not been insisted upon as an addition to be made to previously concluded arrangement. Would the author of the extract have us agree to the second part; and thus establish a *fugitive slave law* in Liberia! Had the goverment insisted upon a fulfillment of the agreement and taken possession of the place we are not left to conjecture what would be said by the author of the extracts and the rest of the calumniators. In reply to the positive statement that not one foot of the Gallinas teritory has been purchased, we will only ask whether Soolima form, any part of the Gallinas? The author of the bold, but groundless assertion must be acquainted with some of the African dialects, if so, he can enquire of the natives whether Soolima was sold to us; and whether the purchase was made prior to any proposition having been made to Prince Manna for the sale of that *small part* of the Gallinas, over which he stretches the horse-tail. In fact the writer of the extracts has not even the merit of being a good fabricator. But false witnesses are frequently blind.

We refer to the testimony of Mr. Redman and an English Captain but we do not endorse the extent of their statements, being confident there are honorable men in the place they, allude to.

We take great pleasure in leting our readers know, that no furher depredations have been committed by Grando and his allies, since our last issue. Indeed, from all accounts they have had enough fighting; and are quite willing to make friends.

Grando would have left the country soon after he was repulsed by the Bassa covians, but the Bassa Chiefs, whom he had seduced from their allegiance to this government, and who had allied themselves to him, protested strongly against it; and told him that as he brought them into collision with the Liberians; he must, and should remain until they had ascertained how their case would be. He will be narrowly watched by them, and the first attempt he makes to escape from the country, will be the warrant for his arrest and delivery to the government.

The Legislature is now in session; and it is presumed it will give immediate attention to the condition of affairs in the Bassa Country; and adopt stringent measures to restore peace and quietness; and to prevent a re-occurrence of the lamentable affair by the defection and rebellion of Grando.

To permit a wholesome and urgently called for chastisement of Grando and his allies, without too greatly inconveniencing our farmers, no delay should occur. The sooner it is undertaken the better. It must be borne in mind that in a month's time the season will commence for farmers to prepare their land for planting; and they should be at liberty to resume their labors as soon after the commencement of the season as possible—even if it should be necessary to shorten the session of the Legislature: and leave the unfinished business for an extra session.

We have been furnished with the following statement of the cruise of the U. S. Ship "Dale Commander Pearson by one of the officers. We present it to our readers without comment.

The U. S. Ship "Dale" arrived in Messurado Roads on the 11th November from a cruise to the Island of Johanna, whither she had been ordered to demand satisfaction for the illegal detention of an American whaling Captain. The Dale was temporarily detached from the U. S. Squadron on the West Coast of Africa—by Commodore Gregory to perform this service. She left Porto Praya on the 7th May last, and arrived at Johanna via Rio de Janerio and Simon's Bay, on the 4th, of August last, on the 5th, she hauled up in front of the town, and sent a boat on shore with officers for a settlement—on the morning of the 6th. no satisfactory terms being complied to—opened her batteries upon the Forts, when after a few shots having been fired, a flag of Truce being hoisted upon the principle fort, another boat was sent on shore. After some hours detention the boat returned and yet no satisfaction—Again opened the batteries; and the Flag of truce again being hoisted another boat was sent on shore; when the terms offered by Commander Pearson for settlement being agreed to by the king, hostilities ceased.

It is matter of surprise to us, (and in no other way to be accounted for, than the great superiority of American metal and the means of American warfare recognized by half civilized nations) that the fort prominent and convenient to the Ship and with a sufficient Battery, capable of sinking an ordinary squadron, did not make effort for defence.

The Brig "Zeno," Capt. Sullivant, has returned from Grand Bassa where she landed the immigrants and stores sent out by the New York Colonization Society. We are happy to say that the immigrants are pleased with the appearance of the country, and from all we can learn they will prove a great acquisition to it. They are favorably represented, and it is not doubted but they are an enterprising company. We are also informed that they are well provided; and have the means to carry on farming operations on a respectable scale. We wish them success in all their honorable undertakings.

The Legislature commenced its session on Monday the 1st inst. By 12 of the clock the Senate was organized and ready for business. The House of Representatives, having to determine the qualifications of some of its members; and attend to claims of others, who thought themselves entitled to seats, was not prepared for business till the 3rd, on that day the tickets of the last regular election were counted; and the result proclaimed—that Joseph J. Roberts was elected President and Anthony D. Williams Vice President, for the next two years. On the 3 inst at noon, the two houses, met in convention, when the President delivered his inaugral address, and with the Vice President, was sworn into office. This ceremony was deeply interesting and impressive. As the President laid his hand upon the Holy Bible the convention and a number of other gentlemen within the bar of the Senate arose in profound silence and remained standing during the ceremony. One individual only within the bar—a foreign official—retained his seat and seemed to view the whole proceeding with the greatest indifference if, we may not say with disrespect. Immediately after this ceremony, the *Message* of the President to both houses was delivered. There is but one opinion about these two documents and that is, that they show the superior intelligence of our worthy Chief Magistrate. In our next, our readers will have the pleasure of reading them. The message plainly sets forth the state and condition of affairs and that there are matters to correct and improve, we see nothing that should dishearten; but much to inspire the people to a renewal of their energies for the honor and prosperity of their country.

NAVAL.

November, 28th La: Gov: schooner Lark, R Cooper, Lieut. Commanding, arrived from Shroe, via. Grand Bassa;—She sailed on the 1st of Dec: for Leeward Coast.—She returned to port on the 5th inst.

November, 29th H. B. M. brig Spy, Commander Bersesford, for the windward.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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