For the Liberia Herald

Mr Herald—Will you allow us a space in your columns to make a few remarks in relation to certain opinions advanced in an editorial of your last number?

The article in question discusses a very important subject viz "Education as indispensably necessary to the Stability of the Republic"—This is a fact so obvious that a blind man will not dispute it, though he may not *see* it—he will certainly stumble against it,—But, Mr. Herald how does it happen that you object to the idea that Missionary Schools such as are now in operation in Liberia are adequate to raise men competent to uphold and conduct the government? You ask. "*Can it be said that missionary schools are likely to send forth men capable of taking charge of the government—to carry it on as it should be?*"—And then you remark—"*We unhesitatingly reply in the negative—and it is with fear and trembling that we are compelled to come to this conclusion*"—Well may you have come to the conclusion in such a manner, for it is, according to our impression, rather a hasty one.

We are decidedly of the opinion that the schools now in the Republic will send forth men qualified in a very respectable degree to take charge of the government in all its departments. It is not a fact that in all the schools the young men are educated exclusively with a view to missionary operations—We do not believe that all the young men in the Alex: High School—(of which we know more than we do of any other)—are being trained for the ministry.

We are acquainted with two of the students who are studying with a view to the practice of law—with another studying with reference to medical pursuits. We know of but two who have the ministry in view—Though the fact cannot be concealed and should not be, that the Liberian Church is just as much in need of educated men as the State.—

You ask further Mr. Herald, "*What is to be done under these circumstances? Can Liberia continue to exist in the absence of necessary schools to educate the rising generation?*" By these interrogations, it appears Sir, you leave the impression that there are no "*necessary Schools*" in the Republic. But is this the fact? Are not the Schools now existing or some of them at least as good and fully as adequate to produce educated men as any the government might establish had it the means to do so.? Surely they are—But the objection seems to be—they are *Missionary Schools*. Well supposing they are? Are not Liberians, strictly speaking a missionary community? Was it not a part of the avowed object of the founders of this nation [illegible] introducing christianity and civilization into this continent? and is not this now strenuously urged as one of the greatest pleas in be half of Liberia by her friends abroad? Is it not right therefore—is it not sure to found the education of those who in future are to come forward and sustain the government, upon the holy principles of the Bible? Is it not proper to inspire them with high regard for those truths which are a nations safe guard—and under the influence of which alone true national prosperity and greatness are promoted?

The perplexity with us, Mr. Herald, has always been, not so much that the means of education are lacking as that there are so few who appreciate the facilities within their reach, some there are who indulging a foolish pride,—(and ignorance an dpride go together) despise the idea of being educated by missionary societies and are therefore remaining in ignorance—satisfied with merely earning sufficient to keep themselves from panperism—We know some young men in this community of fine natural talents who, if they would practice a little self denial—and embrace the advantages held out to them in some of these schools might become brilliant ornaments and efficient supporters of our Republic: but they look only to the present they regard not the future. This being the state of things then—if instruction is now despised when it may be obtained under circumstances so favorable, is it likely that it would be appreciated, if schools were established by the government entirely detached from missionary operations? We cannot assure ourselves that it would, Yet it is certain that if the people are not educated, "*Liberia as a Republic cannot stand*" for such is the increase and such the character of immigrations that in few years the country will be deluged in a flood of ignorance which will, in its powerful flow, unless there be a sufficient counteracting influence bear away our free institutions arrest the progress of the rising nation—and render our beloved land a scene of discord and tyranny—And here I may, be permitted to state my honest conviction that so long as this stat of things continues, Liberia cannot fully meet the expectation of her friends abroad in exerting a redeeming and recuperative influence upon the surrounding natives—excepting perhaps so far as her example and authority may operate upon them—She will always have enough to do to suppress and counteract the demoralizing & degenerating influence of ignorance among her own citizens, It is impossible to disguise the fact that emigrations to Liberia from the U. S. are generally composed of persons not at all calculated to assume the duties and responsibilities of citizens of a free government,—and therefore much less qualified to *redeem a continent*—persons who, having spent the greater portion of their lives in servile situations, if not in hard bondage are themselves barely civilized. If Liberians then would see their country prosper,—if they would see her a advance to national importance. If they would not see her dissevered into a thousand pieces—and become an object of scorn to the world—a reproach to the entire colored race—If they would see Africa "elevated redeemed and disenthralled" they must inspire their children with a sense of the importance of knowledge—teaching them that in efficiency it is "*Power*" and in value above the price of rubies—and therefore should be appreciated and striven after wherever and by whomsoever proffered.

Before we conclude, Mr. Herald we beg to say that you must not—from the foregoing remarks understand us as slighting you advice that "*the people of Liberia must help themselves &c.*

We sincerely believe and constantly advocate the doctrine of true independence, but this should not induce us to refuse or neglect offered aid, especially when we are in need of it. It is the part of wisdom to accept of and appreciate it. We would not regard a man in indigent circumstance as wise who, on the ground, that he must be independent would refuse assistance tendered to him,—such conduct would be extremely foolish and the man would be deserving of no sympathy. Let us then while we endeavor to maintain a proper spirit of independene—not slight assistance from abroad— Monrovia July 10th 1854.

ALEXANDRIAN.

Mr. Herald.

I noticed in your last issue, a very protracted effusion under the Caption of "*An appeal to the U. S. U. S. A. The Emigrant, his condition and his wants.*"

Having perused it carefully several times, I must confess that I was very much disappointed in the article. Its caption had inspired me with large expectations, as to its contents. While it brings many important facts to light it is strangely indefinite in its conclusions;—and wonderfully inconsistent with itself. The writer proceeds—increasing his details of the wants and sufferings of Emigrants—and after having elicited the sympathy of his readers in behalf of the sufferers. and excited their indignation against those, who are the causes of such suffering—he contrives in some way to exculpate from censure all concerned.

The *Physicians*, upon whose efforts the welfare of the Emigrants greatly depends, he says," "*are as active as circumstances will admit*," this being the case, *they* cannot be blamed for any sufferings of the Emigrants.

The *Agent*, upon whom the duty of locating the Emigrants and otherwise providing for their health and confort devolves, is said to be, "*a humane and active young man &c &c*" Then of course it is to be presumed *he* does his duty, and is therefore not censurable.

After a few more details, the writer, asks, "*Who will blame the Col. Soc:*"? *We do not believe they know this*,"—The blame then you will perceive, Mr. Herald, according to the writer, cannot rest on the Physicians, nor on the Agent, nor on the Society;—it must fall therefore upon the Emigrants themselves. *they* must be reproached as the causes of their own sufferings; but this cannot be either, since the writer intimates, that they are not furnished with the means necessary for their confort and safety. Where then is the blame? Why nowhere. Who then is censurable? Why nobody. But is this really a fact? Has the writer succeeded in his obvious design of exonerating all from blame? No.—It were absured to suppose he had. Indeed he does by implication censure the Agent and Physicians after all.

He says "*I live on the St. Pauls River, on the right and left and before me are settleing probably one half of the Emigrants to this Republic. And every Emigrant Agent, and every Doctor lives at Monrovia from 10 to 14 and 20 miles from the places at which emigrants come to settle. increasing I believe the one class in mercantile engagements, and the other in extended private practice in and out of that City. "I speak for Messurado County, I simply in this state fact.*" The distributive pronoun "*Every*" which the writer applies to Agent, would imply that there were more than one or even two Emigrant Agents in this County who have the oversight of Emigrants located on the St. Pauls river. I am, I believe, the only Agent of the A. C. S. for this County, and the only one who locates Emigrants on the St. Pauls. But I, whom the writer discribes as "a humane and and active Young Man &c &c"—He says, "am increasining in mercantile engagements This I must say with all due respect to the Hon: and Rev Gentleman, is a departure from *strict varacity*. It is generally known here that I am engaged in no business but that of the Society's, and I wish that my Hon friend would be more particular in his remarks, and always fully inform himself of facts before he makes assertions.

But the others, namely, the Physicians he says, "are increasing in extended private practice &c"—These however the writer excuses, as he advances,—on the ground that they are bound by the laws of humanity and of God to practice privately as well as attend emigrants" —If such be the case why complain to the Col: Soc! If it be wrong for the two Physicians we have in this County to give their entire attention to the Emigrants during their acclimation, (which I well know they do not.) I ask again, why complain to the Society?—Both of these Physicians alluded to, were for the last six months employed by the society to attend Emigrants, one on the St Pauls, and the other in Monrovia. The one who was employed to attend on the St. Pauls neglected to render proper attention to his Patients, by this, I mean that he would not remain up the river among them, but spent during the six months no little part of his time and practice in this city. It being impossible to obtain the services of any other physician, wewere obliged, after some very impleasant words with him about his unfaithfulness, to suffer him to continue, notwithstanding his partial attendance, as it was better than none. This Mr. Herald is generally known here, and many parties have complained to me of the bad medical attention rendered Emigrants on the St. Pauls. I believe the writer is willing to admit that he has seen me often in his vicinity visiting Emigrants, and from the conversation I had with him at his dwelling during one of those visits a few months ago about the bad medical attention rendered them, he cannot but believe that I have not so much neglected them, as he intimates by remarking, that "I am increasing in mercantile engagements" at Monrovia.

The fact is, Mr. Herald, we greatly need more Physicians, not only in this county but in the other Counties. The entire number of Phsicians that we now have in all the Republic being only four; of these, three were educated and graduated in the United States through the instrumentality of the Col. Soc. and I believe at their expense.

And they would doubtless employ Physicians in the States and send them among us, could they be obtained, but we are well aware of the antipathy which talented colored men in that country entertain against Liberia.—consequently it is not to be expected that the services of any qualified colored Physician would be secured—But however this may be, is it not high time for us, as an independent people, to endeavor to help ourselves in this respect? I think we ought to look within ourselves a little and endeavor to devise some plan to remedy the many evils of which some now complain to the Society.

"There cant be so much smoke without fire," There is blame some where, and our *Hon* Writer residing amidst the suffering, and the dying should have had sufficient candour to have been more explicit. If this state of things is as he represents? If there has existed, and still exists, a want of suitable houses for the accommodation of Emigrants, this fact should have been made known to the Society, by their agent and If he has not done this, (his indispensable duty)—then he is no longer the "humane and active" being which he is said to be by the writer—& for this failure in his duty is highly censurable.

But as a proof that the Soc. has been properly informed on this point, I beg to call the writer's attention to a published letter of mine in the New York Col. Journal addressed to the Rev. Jno. B Pinney Secy. N Y. S. Col. Soc. the early part of last year, theperusal of which. I believe will convince him of this fact. I might, Mr. Herald, notice the assertions made by the writer about Medicines, stinking Fish beef, Pork &c but deem it unnecessary at present they are mere assertions destitute of proper foundations. My only reason for thus far noticing the "appeal" is, that "I want every man to shoulder his own luggage;" to lay the blame where it belongs: and I would request the writer in his "*next*" to which he makes reference—not only to give "*proof that will convict and burn*" but to come to the "*point*" without dodging and equivocating.

H. W. DENNIS.

Mr. Editor;—Having been called upon by distinguished citizens, Legislature, and magistrates of our republic, in your last number, to give a candid statement in reference to the emigrants at the receptible during the last six months, I bring. June the 20th. I proceed to do so. The receptible is one story and a garret, containing 14 rooms below, 8 by 10 feet two of which are occupied as store rooms, which from the cakage of brine, from beef, pork, and fish barrels, and also molasses, which cause an impleasent odor, throughout the building. There is also 4 rooms in the garret. The passage is about 6 feet wide and the floor about 2 feet from the ground, with no ventilation to my knowledge The floor is open freely admiting the air from beneath into the building. Their is no regular bedstead, as a general thing, many of the emigants lie on the floor. The number of persons in each room, may be estimated at about 5 or 6 (i e) in some 2 or 3. and in others 9 or 10. In one room besides the occupants are barrels, boxes, cooking utensils, beds, and more to be deplored than all, is their weeks provision, viz pork, beef, salt fish, corn meal, molasses, sugar, coffee, tea, flour rice, sometimes, butter, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables, all crowded under the bed, the space left unoccupied may be judged of, from the descriptive size of the rooms. The ground around and about the house is low and level, therefore the first to accumulate an over flow of water in time of rain, from the fact that their is a high eminence on the south west side of the house, and on the north east a creek, consequently the location, is the last from which the water is drained. The dampness under the house together with the decomposition of vegetable, and animals, matter contained in the house, fills the whole building with foul air, which has a deliterious affect upon the human economy. Atmospheric impurity is an abundant source of disease, carbonic acid, carbonic oxeide, the different forms of carburetted hydrogen, hybro-sulphuric, acid, and sulphurous acid are almost all that proceed from natural sources or ordinary artificial process, in quantities likely to prove injurious to health, others, such as, chlorine, muriatic acid gas, nitric oxid, or nitrous acid vapour, &c &c. but besides these numerous aeriform products, are constantly evolved, by vegetable, and animal exhalation, causes wich tend to contaminate the air, and render it more or less noxious to animal life, from the decomposition of vegetable and animal matters, in and about the recepticle, with the dampness arising, & (I may also say, from the filthy, and crowded condition, of the inmates.) those deliterious affects, can clearly be discovered therein, during acclimation, to the extent of asphyxia, cerebral oppression, fainting, comma, and dimness sometimes even to the extinction, of burning tapers These are facts, which I hope no one will pretend to denie. During my attention to the emigrants, I strove to get a committee to examine the recepticle, but failed to succeed. Indeed all the emigrants in the Virginia settlements, were uncomfortably situated, being 5 or 6 cramed into one room, together with their provisions Those in Clay Ashland where the mortality was small, were more comfortably situated. As for proper medical aid, the last emigrant did not get, it was impossible, under all the circumstances, I wish it to be understood, that the emigrant were scattered from the intersection of St Pauls river, and stockton creek, nearly opposite the palm rock, which constitutes 7 miles range to attend them, having at the sametime to attend to private practice, by the year, which I could not sacrifice for six months employments, besides other regular practice No one with common sense could expect it, I asserted in the commencement that it was too much for one Physician, and that I only engaged in it because no other could be obtained, however I promised to be faithful in the discharge of my duties, which I was, almost to the destruction of my health, though feeble, I was not absent from my post three weeks during the whole six months. In making the above statement, I have not descended to particulars, and shall not do so unless compelled, for I do not like news papers brickering but I have been compelled, to write thus, to prevent myself from becoming a *scape goat*, to *bear* away the *sin* of *others*.

J. M. MOORE.

Mr Editor.

Permit me space in your columns, to notice the contradiction of "Elijah Johnson:" You know that I gave it as my opinion, and that of many others, that it was not to the interest of the people of Liberia, to invite other powers to acknowledge the independence of Liberia, and that treaties, with stipulations, like those of England and France could not now be ratified by the Liberian Senate. Mr. Editor I have but a few words, to say—but these are to the point—and will, I think satisfy your reades that I did not write unadvisedly.

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