LIBERIA HERALD

AN AWKWARD MISTAKE.

A Frenchman—these Frenchmen are surely the very bodies corporate of the inventive faculty—lately left Paris for London, big with an idea that he had at length discovered the means of rendering a vast service to mankind, by triumphing over the element of fire. He stated through he public prints that he had, after much study and great labor, fabricated a species of armor, encased in which he could walk uninjured through the fiercest fires; and as the metropolis of England, during the winter months, was the peculiar threatre of conflagration, he had most philanthropically come over for the purpose of offering himself as a kind of human salamander, to assist in the recovery of valuable property in peril amids' the flames, or to enroll himself a super-extra or amateur fireman, on any of the great establishments in the city.

The boldness with which he announced his arrival, and the nerve he exhibited in the interviews which he had with the various agents of the innumerable London Insurance offices, at length drew on him the notice of the Government; and as nothing is there adopted without standing the test of experiment, an offer was made him that a fire should be prepared at the expense of the public, where before duly authorized officers, the validity of his pretensions might be proved. Monsieur most joyfully complied with the terms, and a time and place for the trial were assigned. In the outskirts of London, a short distance from Hammersmith, a ruinous extent of buildings, formerly used as cowpens, &c, by an extensive cow keeper, who had failed, was filled with, a variety of combustibles, affording, however, clear avenues of ingress and egress, thereby from greater ventilation causing a fiercer glow of heat. Here, on a certain day, the French man, with a few of his personal friends, and a deputation from the government, were assembled. The word was given, and a light being applied, in a few moments a scene of conflagration, to which that where the holy men of antiquity, Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego so conspicuously figured, could hardly be compared, burst forth in awful grandeur upon the astonished neighborhood. Nothing daunted, the Frenchman, assisted by his friends, quickly arrayed himself in his armor, which then appeared to be a kind of helmet, cuirass, and greaves, manufactured of the fossil asbestos, or amianthus, which is well known to the chemist to be indestructible by fire. He had also by means of pipes fabricated of the same material, managed to obtain from an air pumping machine, worked by his friends, a sufficient quantity of pure air to be able to respire freely in the portable house he had thus constructed. All being ready, away darted the Frenchman, and entered the burning building by the avenue which seemed to all the most intensely flaming. For a moment, just one moment, he was invisible when in the midst o the the most awful anxiety, the most painful solicitude of the spectators, the rafters of the building crackling, and sending aloft myriads of sparks, the flames roaring through the hollow passages, and darting and issuing forth a thousand tongues of devouring fire, he suddenly emerged from the spot where he was seen to enter, an struggling forward with evident difficulty, he fell on the ground in front of his friend, who had hastened forward to assist him. It was sometime before his unwieldly apparatus was removed, when he was found insensible; a few moments of judicious attention, and a little cold water revived him. When he had come a little to himself, he pressed his hand to his head, looked around, and as consciousness gradually entered his brain, he threw himself in an attitude of intense excitement, and looking towards the judges of the feasibility of the scheme, exclaimed in tones of pitiable appealing, "Enfin, je respire, gentlemen, I had forgotten one little circumstance; I had provided most effectually against the chance of being *burned*, but alas! I forgot there was no means provided against that of being BAKED." The experiment was a failure.

For the Liberia Herald

AN APPEAL TO THE COL: SOC: &c.

Mr. Herald.

When the graves of the dead, and the groans of the dying, (still continuing,) led me at first, to pick up my pen In what to some few "little hearts," that would be in "big people," *turned into adamant by cruelty*. My object was simple truth.—to save precious life. To mittizate human suffering; By pointing out what observation had lead me to believe was the causes of it. Without interfearing with any mans pay, duty, or privilege: or without descending to particulars. I repeat that I live in the midst of these scenes. I administer to many from my table, stand by the bead side, pray with these sick, and often speak the funeral words. I said Doctors and agents reside chiefly 12 & 15 miles from these scenes and have not much chance to know of what I speak. Neither did I think their was a man, with the soul of a man, with one spark of true humanity in him in the Republic of Liberia, knowing that emigrants do suffer, and suffer extreemly from the causes I was about to mention, that would have used his pen in any way than to help to bring about what I believe are the design and object of the A. M. Col. Soc If that soc, knew, the real wants of people that they truly desire to live, after they are sent out to this only true home of our oppressed race in the United States I do not, and will not believe that that, society sends men, women and children out to this country to suffer, and die like sheep; when we all do believe it can be prevented to a great extent almost all of it. And I truly believe it can be to a very large extent. But if I must desend to particulars, without fear, or favor, of great, or small, I take old Divid Crockets motto for my advice.

"One thing I leave to others when I am dead;
Be shore you are right, then go a head."

Wisdom would say, hear a man first, and then criticise his opinions. I said, I believe that I charged no man on this side of the water, Suffer me from revealing truth to take a little of this assertion back, if certain proof will make it necessary. I will charge no one, if truth will not. I now wish to state a few of the reasons, why emigrants coming to this Republic should go right where they wish, and intend to locate; or make a final settlement and acclimate in that place. I know their will be theories proposed, differing from this, but all will only go to throw light on the general truth, and I sincerely hope, tend to so throw that light on the general truth, as to meet the general, and *absolutely needed* wants, of the poor, and needy, and misplaced emigrant. Emigration to this Republic is increasing and will increase; let it still increase a hundred fold but prepare for that increase; take the *most effectual* steps to secure the end of emigration; where can be any impropriety in this? I do not so particularly espouse the cause of the "Angels visit" emigrant, who having chanced to have "the hand," the fortune, "for good luck" that maketh rich and provides against want and gives introduction;—and to whom "six months" aid from the Col. Soc. is a "small matter" any way; such may stop with the eclat of the capital; (little knowing how that eclat worked up) may take merchantile lessons and enter the traffic; Prepare for the Bar. Dedicate themselves to public office, or enter into one of the many open doors of some Mission field, or whatever else may suit the dignity of worth Such may rent the "better house."—Walk upon what they may suppose the "higher brim of the wheel."—stand out among "the swell heads"—and swim among the "big fish." Neither do I blame them, for "birds of a feather will flock togeter," if after fair trial they are of the true species, a working active set I have called these men of *means* "Angel visit," exceptions in this respect to the common rule, that is the no money, no A. B. C men, that come directly from the plantation &c &c. and chiefly settle on *this* River, to go into the soil and reveal its resources. And I vouch for it, they are useful set of men to the country, as any other Their are many men now well to do, that did not bring five dollars in cash to the country:—nor twenty in any thing else. These men of means, have the pen and the purse to defend themselves, and I wish more of them; a hundred fold, would come and dwell amongst us. It is for the latter, the "*mass*," of every emigration, I would speak. Nearly every emigrant coming to this Republic, comes to settle some where. Most of them to settle in some particular place had in the minds eye before ever they stated from their native to their adopted country. To that particular place they aim. The journey is not ended, nor is the excitement over, or the mind eased of *its burthen* until they reach that place, of hoped for destination. And delayed, and stoped short, this burden often under the circumstances kills. most of our emigrants who have nothing to depend upon, but personal vigor, industry and health with a fair chance *in time* to do. Beside, a scanty out fit, in clothing, cooking and farming utensils. I think only two barrels bulk, is allowed on emigrant on the ship, that wafts to this "Goodly land." Now where can be the wisdom let me ask, in stopping at Monrovia, emigrants for Virginia, or Clayashland? at Virginia, those for Clayashland? *as is ever practiced* too much Why cause them to *rusticate*, six months, in that "for famed" which the late Judge Benedict, call it "Golgotha," "Assylum" in Virginia? a house that properly fixed, and improved, might do well enough; especially, if not over crowded with lumber and life; to unlade at the *expence of both*. Why stopt them any where, except at the place they emigrate to settle in? Why, 20 15, 10, or 5 miles, from the distined spot? Especially when the same means, will settle them right at once, and at first? How many for Clayashland lay discontented in that "Assylam" in Vergina? to *burn*, with *fears, anxiety and discontent* six months, Why stop any man, any where, against their wills or wishes? By over persuasion, wrong advice, or pretended better medical aid? Now I can testify, this one supposed duty, or authority, or advice, persuasion, wrong policy of agents or some one else; has a grave yard attached to it Be these perpetuated by whom it may, they are closely allied to *death or suffering*, their need be no grave; nor grave yard; no curse on the country; and a yielding climate shown a half a chance by doing right; and giving in that doing, sufficient Medical aid in the proper place &c &c. When emigrant come from America to settle in any particular place. They aim to draw their lands, in that place. Duty, family obligations, and reason, tell them bestir themselves "*now*," whilst *house rent* is paid, and some kind of *shelter* afforded, with medical aid to *some extent*. *During* the "*six months help*," which "six months" *slip by soon* the late emigrants take the fever very late, two, three, and four months, in many instances, spent *rusticating* in *one settlement* and their *lands in another*, "because they *must*." &c.

Then the end of six, and beginning of seven months find them prostrated "*off of the society*," no money, no house, no crop planted; land from 5, to 20 miles off, no Poor house in Liberia. Months spent in idle anxiety; waiting the fever; that had been spent in planting, and building, and preperation during "six months help," *giving* for *this express purpose*, lossing the whole benefit of what might first, or last save life. And many have proved, and are proving that cabbins can be built and good crops planted in the six months, to meet them, when aid tendered is withdrawn How many availing themselves of this six months, and travel, from Monrovia, 14 miles up this River weekly—through rain, and sun, work in mud, and slop—, while they can, laying by for chills, or working them *off*, taking shelter where they can out of rain wrather than suffer after? And suppose their families were on the *ground*? would not much of this killing exposure, be avoided? How many men have been passing my door, almost daily, in the last *seven months*, tooting it *five* miles from this "Assylum" and back *ten miles* a day, through *rain sun, and mud and slop with fever*. Which *ten* miles, *heard* walking, could have been spent in profitable labour, and rest had they been on *the ground*. And why? their lands were in Clayashland; they come, to settle their, and must work while the Col. Soc. helps them. And are any of them dead? Well die first as last, if travel and exposure killed them, getting to and from work Want and sickness, had as is doing killed after they had eat all, lived out all, and rent, and is put out in one day, bereft of all, to "Roote Pig or die" sick. Then it is "fally to write" may God teach my hands to war, and my fingers to fight (more yet)

A. F. RUSSELL.

For the Liberia Herald

Mr Herald: Please allow me to occupy a short space in your columns, to give vent to a few thoughts on a subject, of which I was informed by a friend, relative to a circumstance, that took place here not long since.

A few evenings ago, some persons met in the Court House yard, our informant says, for the purpose of holding a meeting in the court house, of a military character; the door being locked, and the key in the hands of the Jailor:—the key was demanded, but its delivery was refused by the holder, some one or two of the party who had assembled, seized the jailor, turned him upside down, and took away the court house key from him with all the other keys that he had belonging to the jail house.

No one, it seems, says our informant, could account for this course of conduct, on the part of the lovers of military discipline. There were, at the time, several prisoners in jail, and no one could account for the amount of friendly feeling that may have been felt for them. The course of conduct created some excited feelings, and the conservators of the peace, on representation of the affair having been made to them, deemedit their duty to endeavor to have thepeace kept, and the majesty of the laws maintained, and the officer, who was thus treated and assaulted, improvoked, protected, had the violators of the peace summoned o t a, before two squires, who set in judgment for the investigation anddetermining of this matter The examination of the witnesses having gone through with, our informant says, that the decision of the squires, is, that the accused are guilty of the charge alledged against them; (i. e. the thing itself;) and, therefore, imposed a fine of ten dollars, on each of the persons so arraigned; although it was endeavored to be whirled off in a play, by those who had thus interferred with the keeper of the keys.

An appeal, our informant says, is to be taken from the decision of the Squires; but, to what court, he did not say: therefore I cannot tell, whether the appeal will be taken to the Court of Monthly Sessions, or to the Court of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas, or to the Supreme Court of Liberia. But to whatever court the appeal may be taken, our informant says, that a learned attorney and * * * * *, intends to defend the appeal;—and further, that he intends to open the eyes of many of the citizens of this Republic, on many subjects, and we suppose, to conduct them in all ways of confusion and disorder, so as to let it verified, that the reports that has been circulated in regard to that man of honor, is true:—and that in all the places he has lived, and the place in which he now lives, and the places in which he may hereafter, live, that his sole delight is in confusion and disorder.

And our informant says that the learned gentleman intends to make an elaborate speech in support of the appeal, before the court that the appeal may be taken to—to show the citizens of Liberia, that disorder in Government,—in society and in the church, are the concomitant parts in which he delights; and to fill up the measure of the saying, that is said by the * * * * * caucassions, who inhabits the western world, that * * * * * * * will never make a nation; and that disorder and confusion will bring up the rear of the short period of time that may exist as a nation. How lamentable it is to hear that such a stand is about to be taken against the maintainance of good order and peace;—and for what, may I ask, is this course to be pursued? to please sensual ambition.

The sonorus voice of the learned gentleman, who, no doubt is the lion of the party of the appellees, will make the walls of the hall of Justice ring with the eloquence of a "Cicero;"—and like the A then on "Solor," become a lawgiver, and dictator general to Liberia.

Then if it is sportive and amusing play for deputy officers of the government and attornies law, to become leaders in such a course of conduct, and then for them to be backed by those who ought to discountenance such behaviour, in any portion of the people among they live;—we had as well bout ship and go ashore.

The opener of the eyes o the blind and the revealer of many of the hidden secrets of Liberia, will be followed by some able speaker no doubt.

There is a very important secret about Monrovia, and that is, Cape Messurado has stood so long in one position, with so many valuable jewels of wealth laying concealed in its bosom; and now the cape is to be turned upside down, as was the poor jailor, and then the eyes of many citizens will be opened to behold the rich jewels of the earth, as they will be opened to behold, that any person have a right to arrest the keys of public buildings from the hands of him who holders them by lawful authority.

We hope that to whatever court the appeal may be taken to, that the court may do the appellees the honor to confirm the decision of the squires;—so that turbulance may be awed into quietude;—and that others who may be disposed to act a miss, may profit by the pass.

A CITIZEN.

Mr. Herald.

(July 22) Will you allow me to correct a a few of the errows in my two letters, that are most glairing. In my 2nd letter, seven lines from the bottom for united," read "rented," this "sufficient house cannot be rented." In my first. The 30th line from the top of last col, 2 page Read for 'complain' 'Complaining' The scentences should read thus "But can one Doctor complaining that he has no medicine, or not sufficient, to attend emigrants &c on the same tol: 27 lines from the bottom. "read, with increasing care at Cape Palmas to this day." Period at "day." On the same col. 10 lines from bottom read 1834. 5. 6. 7. 8. "meaning 1834. 1835. 1836. &c. Furing over on the next page 7 lines from top for "discube" read discribe, 7 lines from the bottom of the peace, for "class," read classits. This last, has been communicated, to me, & compared with the copy I hold these are corrections, as near as possible, under the circumstances.

Clayashland July 16th 1854.

Respectfully A. F. RUSSELL.

☞ 'O keep it a secret,'—says one, do not let this vile soul polluting, and body destroying sin, called *solitary vice*,' be known. Indeed! keep it a secret, till a few more millions are *rotten*! a curse to themselves, a curse to the world! Keep it a secret ha! Just as Satan would have it.

Keep gambling, and drunkenness a secret, cover up all the wicked abominations, till the whole world reels, like a drunken man, to the world of woe. The only way to cure evil is to expose it, bring it out into light—let its hideoeness be seen, then apply the remedy.

Ignorance is often the mother of vice.

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