LIBERIA HERALD

An Act to Regulate the Sale of Public Lands &c.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature Assembled.—

Sec. 1. That there shall be appointed in each of the Counties of this Republic, one person to be called Land Commissioner, his duty shall be to effect the sale of public lands, any citizen expressing to him a desire to purchase a lot or parcel of public land (excepting such as may be reserved for public use) he shall forthwith have the said lot or parcel of land so desired, surveyed at the expense of the government, so as to give the precise number, situation and the boundaries before offering it for sale, and upon his receiving the Surveyor's certificate describing the boundaries, number &c. of said land, he shall on the first day of the term of the Court of Quarter session, when it is not in session offer at public auction in front of the "Court House" the lot or parcel of land so desired and surveyed. He shall file in his office all certificates received by him from the Surveyor of lands surveyed by him, and keep a correct account in a book furnished for the purpose of all lands sold, and report quarterly to the Secretary of the Treasury. And shall receive five per cent to be paid by the government on all sales of land effected by him.

2. *It is further Enacted:*—That the Land Commissioner shall give the purchaser of lands sold by him a copy of the Surveyor's certificate, endorsed on the back of it the date on which the land was sold, and the amount for which it was sold. The purchaser on receiving said certificate shall pay into the Treasury, within ninety days the full amount for land so purchased, and take the Treasurer's receipt for the same, and present the same to the Land Commissioner, and should the purchaser fail to comply the sale shall be null and void and in all such cases the person shall be responsible to the Land Commissioner for the amount of his percentage on sales, and on his failing to pay the same, it may be recovered in an action of debt before any Justice of the Peace or Court having jurisdiction in the case.

3 *It is further Enacted:*—That the Land Commissioner on receiving the Treasurers receipt for monies paid in for lands sold, shall forthwith grant the purchaser a certificate addressed to the Register certifying that he has complied with the law in the purchase of lot or parcel of land as described by the Surveyors certificate a copy of the same thereto annexed and that he is entitled to a deed for the same, for which certificate he shall pay twenty five cents. All lands surveyed and offered at auction and not sold may be sold by the Land Commissioner at private sale, payment to be made in the same as land sold at auction, no lands to be sold below the minimum prices of land. The minimum prices of land lying on the margin of rivers shall be one dollar an acre, and those lying in the interior of the lands on the rivers Fifty cents. Town lots each shall be Thirty dollars except marshy, rocky and barren lots. No part of land which may be sold to the highest bidder.

4. *It is further Enacted:*—That it shall be the duty of the Register on receiving the certificate of the Land Commission with a copy of the Surveyor's certificate describing the number and boundaries &c, of land annexed. To immediately fill up a deed with the number of acres, number of lot and boundaries &c as per Surveyor's certificate, countersigning the same as being executed on the authority of the Land Commissioner's certificate with the day and date so executed and deliver the same over to the purchaser, he paying for the same. The Register shall file all certificates and shall transmit them semi-annually to the Secretary of State. He shall be allowed the usual fees for making out and recording deeds, it being hereby made the duty of each Register when called upon to record deeds for lands sold in his County, in a book furnished him for the purpose. The President is hereby authorized and requested to lodge in the hands of the Register of each County a sufficient number of blank deeds for lands, to be filled up by the Register according to the 4th, Section of the act.

5. *It is further Enacted:*—That the President is hereby authorized and requested to have drawn up at as early a date as possible so as to be extended a correct plot, where there is none, of each Town and Village or Settlement in the several Counties of this Republic, where lands are being drawn or sold and a copy of each plot of the different Towns, Villages or Settlements in the respective Counties, be placed in the office of the Land Commissioner, and also in the office of the Register to note on the plot deposited in his office, all lands disposed of by the government for which he gave deeds, or otherwise coming under his notice, and to whom conveyed. It shall be the duty of the duty of the Land Commissioner to note on the plot deposited in his office all lands sold by him and to whom sold, and of all lands reported by the Surveyors. The Land Commissioner shall be held responsible for any damage sustained by any person or persons from mis-management or neglect of the duties of his office. And further any law conflicting with this act, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Approved Jany. 26th, 1855.

An Act to encourage and assist the citizens of Virginia and Clay Ashland to open a road and make bridges between the two settlements.

It is Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:—

That, from and after the passage of this act, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be and is hereby appropriated to assist the inhabitants of Clay Ashland, and Virginia in building bridges: that is to say, for Virginia, seventy five dollars, for a bridge near the Rev. [illegible] to Clay Ashland, one hundred and seventy five dollars,—to assist to build bridges over Russel and Hazel's creeks; of durable materials.—And the amount of one hundred dollars to the citizens of Harrisburg, opposite Millsburg—to assist them to open a good road, thrown up ten feet wide—to the large creek commonly called Mill Creek—provided, always, that the work is done and inspected by, at least two discreet persons appointed by the President for that purpose.

LIBERIA HERALD

MONROVIA FEBRUARY 7, 1855.

THE LEGISLATURE after an unusually protracted session, adjourned *sine die* on the 31st ult. We publish in our present number as many of the new laws as our space will allow. We hope that our fellow citizens will feel sufficient interest in them to give them a careful perusal; and so to familiarize themselves with them as never to be under the shame and necessity of confessing ignorance of their existence. The rest will appear in our next.

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

THE WAR in the East is assuming a very serious and formidable aspect. The Crimea is made the scene of the most sanguinary conflicts, and the grave of thousands of the most noble of the allied troops.

THE SIEGE—Our readers are no doubt aware that the Allies have been for some time besieging Sebastopol. Trying it impregnable [illegible] that powerful fortress by assault without great carnage and sacrifice of life, they are testing what virtue there is in siege. The British are encamped on the south east side of Sebastopol, South of Inkerman Bay; the French on the South West, North of Chersonese Bay.

[illegible]—They on Sunday morning last, [illegible] and that Divine right is on their side, and [illegible] made their soldiers that the Sabbath is propitious,"—made a desperate sortie from Sebastopol and assaulted the British portion of the besiegers. Taken together unprepared for so sudden an attack, the English sustained it nobly; and with their comparatively small force [illegible] no less than 50,000 men with sixty heavy field pieces, until about half past nine O'clock in the morning, when the French came up to their assistance. After [illegible] hours' hard contest the Russians were re[illegible] and the battle field remained in possession of the Allies. It presented a dreadful spectacle. Upwards of 3000 Russians lay dead in various places. The Allies also suffered severe losses. Among the English upwards of 600 men [illegible] were wounded and missing—The French lost about 700 killed and wounded.

While General Canrobert, Commander in chief of the French forces, was engaged in the battle of Inkerman, the Russians made a determined assault on the French lines opposite Sebastopol. They sallied with 4000 men and attacked the sailors battery by the shore. They met with no success, but were driven back to the wall of the town with the loss of 1000 men and 100 prisoners. The loss of the French in this sortie is estimated at 500 men killed and wounded.

RUSSIANS MISSING—The *London News* says; A letter from St Petersburgh states that when the muster roll of the Russian army at Sebastopol was called over on the 6th of November, the day after the battle of Inkerman no less than 15,000 were absent." The English and the French together took about 3000 prisoners.

FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS—ON the 7th of November a reinforcement of 4000 French troops entered the Bay of Chersonese.

AUSTRIA IS NOW WITH THE WESTERN POWERS. The *Illustrated London News* says; A Treaty of Alliance offensive and defensive was signed at Vienna on the 2nd of December 1854, by the representatives of Great Britain, France, and Austria. The treaty commences by repeating and recording the declarations and the principal acts of the conference of Vienna, as well as the declarations and engagements contained in the notes exchanged on the 8th of August 1854, between the high contracting parties.

It maintains the four points of guarantee as the necessary basis of peace, at the same time that it reserves and recognises to each of the Powers the faculty of extending them by additional conditions.

Austria binds herself to France and England, as she had already done to Turkey, by the Treaty of the 14th of June 1854, to occupy the Principalities for the purpose of repulsing the Russian troops, if they attempted to re-enter them.

Austria proclaims the right as justly belonging to Turkey and to the Allies, of making all the movements which may suit them for the purpose of attacking either the Russian troops or the Russian territory.

If, in consequence of her attitude in the Principalities, or for any other cause, Austria should find herself at war with Russia the alliance, offensive and defensive between her, France, and England, shall be established by the fact of the war.

If before the end of the present year, 1854, Russia should not have made propositions which are considered acceptable, and which ensure good and durable peace, the three Powers will advise as to the means of obtaining that peace.

The three high contracting Powers bind themselves not to accept any proposition for the re-establishment of peace without having deliberated upon it in common.

PRUSSIA—It is stated that the new treaty between Austria and the Western Powers had been sent to Berlin, and that at a council held on the 6th of December by the king and his Ministers, the adhesion to the treaty was determined upon. This produced great surprise among the Russian party.

DENMARK—At a large meeting of Danes held in the city of London in November last, the following sentiments were expressed by one of the speakers.

"That the sympathy of the Danish people was with Allied forces doing such glorious deeds in the Crimea The struggle was that of civilization against barbarism; although that little country Denmark was not engaged the [illegible] must not forget that her independence, her position as a nation depended upon this struggle. The Danes were akin to the English, and whatever the feeling of the Danish Ministry might be this he could say, that the [illegible] and free spoken Danes were with the people of England in this mighty struggle of liberty against despotism."

THE BALTIC FLEET arrived safely at Spithead England, on the 14th of December. Sir Charles Napier, Commander of the fleet, landed at Portsmouth on the next day, from a steam-yacht which had been sent to Spithead to bring him on shore; a number of people assembled to see Sir Charles on his return to England.

THE BLACK SEA—A severe storm prevailed in the Black Sea on the 20th of November during which several vessels of the allied fleet sustained severe injury. About forty French sailors including two officers having been cast ashore, and made prisoners by the Russians were left under the guard of a strong picket of Cossacks. In the middle of the night, while seated around a fire, the sailors, on a signal from the officer, arming themselves with burning sticks attacked their keepers, disarmed some, put the others to flight and escaped to the coast where they embarked in boats sent by the vessels that were able to weather the storm.

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

By the American barque "Shirley" Capt: G. W. S. Hall, which arrived on the 30th ult: we have news to the 9th of December. Congress was in session—On the 4th of Dec: both Houses assembled at noon,—37 Senators and 197 Representatives being present. We have given President Pierce's Message a cursory perusal. He begins by noticing as is usual, the occurrences of the past year. The great losses sustained in various parts of the country by agriculturists, the prevalence of pestilence—the numerous catastrophies by sea and land; but rejoices in the fact that notwithstanding all, the United States have experienced a year of peace, health has been regained, and the harvest has generally been plentiful. He then goes on to the domestic and foreign relations of the United States, defines their position with reference to the European war &c &c The revenue of the Government and expenditures by several millions of dollars. After various suggestions for the improvement of affairs the message is concluded with eulogistic expressions in relation to the position and prospects of the "Great Republic" the most prosperous nation on the face of the Globe. Liberia was of course too insignificant to find a place in that important document; we are not of the proper "mould."—

When we take some things into consideration, however, we question whether it is not all for the best that that Government still holds itself at so great a distant from us.

The decision recently made by the Supreme Court of the State of California, upon the admissibility of Chinese testimony in the courts of that State has astonished us more than anything we have heard lately The *Baltimore American* of Dec 2, says: "A white citizen of California was indicted for murder and convicted on the testimony of Chinese witnesses. He appealed on the ground that by the State law regulating criminal proceedings, "no black or mulatto person, or Indian shall be allowed to give evidence in favor of or against a white man." The question investigated by the court was, whether under either of these descriptions, and if any, under which natives of China must be classed to make them incompetent to give testimony in criminal cases against whites. The opinion of the court, delivered by Chief Justice Murray, was that Chinese, are not competent to give testimony against whites, in the courts of California, and accordingly the verdict in the case was set aside." If we mistake not there is a treaty of amity and commerce existing between the Chinese Government, and the Government of the United States, and yet one of the States has the right to subject citizens of China to such degrading treatment. What a country! This is the glorious Union of which its citizens so much boast. This is the country whose citizens frequently indulge in such high selfaudations, styling themselves "the highest people in the world," and their country "the asylum for the oppressed and down trodden of mankind," &c. Surely the most disgusting of all despotisms is that which apes freedom and liberal principles,—and which under the cloak of Republicanism practises cruel oppressions upon the weak and helpless.

THE EDITOR—Hon: JOHN N. LEWIS having resigned his Editorial connexion with the HERALD, which has maintained a stability and credit rarely attained by a paper will be, for a while, conducted by EDWARD W. BLYDEN.

In order that the laws might appear uninterrupted in succession, we have given our Editorial matter a place on the [illegible] of our paper.

IMMIGRANTS—The American barque "Harriet" Capt: Heard, arrived in this port on [illegible] after a prodigiously long passage of 85 days from Baltimore, bringing 163 immigrants. She left Baltimore with 169: 6 died of cholera, [illegible] on the passage. [illegible] on the passage.

We have received from Dublin, Ireland, a copy of the Annual Address of the *Reformed Franciscan Priests, Protection Society*, which we desire to insert in the HERALD. It will appear in our next number if our space will allow.

GENTEEL TIPPLING—The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin says:—it may surprise some of our readers to be made aware of the fact, but a fact it is, notwithstanding, that the ladies of our large cities have their fashionable drinking houses as well as gentlemen, "Cafeens," so called in reference to a counter or two of grass, a gravel walk, and a dwarf shrub; "confectionery establishment," "saloons," and other fashionable resorts, some of them rivalling in splendour the London "gin palaces," furnish ladies with stimulants. "Sherry cobblers" are now sipped through straws, even in this puritanical city and ladies call for their wine [illegible] after ice-cream. The proprietors of [illegible] our daughters and sisters are furnished in "brandy balls." [illegible] sherbets of sugar, with the exception of water, [illegible] and this description of "confectionery" is furnished to whoever will call for it. A friend informs us that some of the "brandy balls" have just been imported among us. Will the ladies of Monrovia patronize them? We think not

"TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION."

The following facts in relation to the drunkenness of the "Spirit" in the United States, published by a distinguished and learned [illegible] in that country, is worthy of our [illegible] attention.

Shall we, having [illegible] our eyes, freely admit and cherish [illegible] their fruitful cause? or shall we use every [illegible] our power to suppress and banish it from our midst? Let us profitably ponder the impressive lessons which these facts inculcate.—

What Ardent Spirits has done in the United States in Ten Years.

1. It has cost the nation a direct expense of $600,000,000.
2. It has cost the nation an indirect expense of $600,000,000.
3. It has destroyed three hundred thousand lives.
4. It has sent one hundred thousand children to the poor-house.
5. It has consigned at least one hundred and fifty thousand persons, to the jails and penitentiaries.
6 It has made at least one thousand marriages.
7. It has instigated to the commission of one thousand five hundred murders.
8 It has burned or otherwise destroyed property to the amount of ten million dollars.
10 It has made two hundred thousand widows, and one million orphan children.—*Edward Everett.*

A correspondent of the Boston Atlas says. It is remarkable that the only governments of the world which have an excess of their receipt over their expenses are Republics; the United States and Switzerland.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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