cncy--few nations. Will any of us in our present situation and formation of our government shudder at the thought of subverting our political constitution or suffering it to degenerate into aristocracy or monarchy, I will answer in the affirmative. Yes!!!

Then let a sense of our happy situation produce gratitude to a kind providence; let us consider him the author of all our blessings; acknowledge him our beneficent parent protector and friend. May the predominant tendency of his providence towards us as a nation evince his benevolent designs—then let us open our ear to his call let us attend and improve those intellectual faculties with which God has endowed us in common with other men. Then we the citizens of Liberia this day may celebrate the anniversary of our independence with voices of freedom and liberty; and while we unfurl the lone star to the gentle breeze the sons and daughters can rejoice that they have overcome all their trials and persecution from other nations. This day while the lone star floats on yonder lofty staff and unfurls to the gentle breeze the spangled beauty of its stripes amid the golden blaze of freedom the pleasing daughters and sons of Liberia may shout with glory and honour with out—stretched arms around the altar of God returning thanks for his kindness exclaming with the poet and calling upon his exile sons to—"Come and sing the elevation

"Of a people once despised
"Now an independent nation
"Having just begun to rise
"Come and see the lone star flying
"All around you look and see
"Come and hear the youths replying
"We are free we are free.

Therefore we the people of Liberia in Africa do acknowledge the gift of God with devout gratitude who granted to us the blessings of the Christian religion.

From time to time our number has increased by migration from the United States of America; our population increased our commerce also has increased; now the Flags of all nations float in our harbour; an honourable trade is carried on exchanging the commodities of our country for another—thus far our highest hopes have been realized—and now all the nations of christendom are looking on our experiment and are bidding us God speed; let Liberia sustain at the same time the highest credit at home and abroad. Our government is of the most popular kind the sovereignty is vested in the people, who by their suffrage enact wholesome laws and enforce obedience and granting to its citizens freedom of sentiments—Let us fellow citizens lift up our oblations to heaven for the better. let us trust in that gracious Being who has hitherto upheld us as it were in the hollow of his hand; let us trust to virtue and the intelligence of our citizens and the efficacy of religion. Oh there, is an hour coming when one whisper of an approving mind, one smile from an approving God, will be counted of more value than the wealth of a thousand worlds like this. in that hour my friends nothing will sustain you but the consciousness of having been governed through life by worthy and good principles.

LIBERIA HERALD
MONROVIA AUGUST 9, 1855

TWENTY SIX TH OF JULY.

The 26th ultimo, the eighth anniversary of Liberian Independence, was observed with the usual demonstrations throughout the Republic. In our city, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was an unusual manifestation of life and spirit. The flags of various nations were seen floating in different directions; while strains of martial music, and the booming of cannon throughout the day seemed to heighten the enjoyment.

About 12 o'clock, a large number of persons of both sexes and all ages, collected at the M. .E Church, where appropriate exercises were performed. The Oration, delivered by Rev Alexander Crummell, was all it was expected to be—a rich intellectual feast. Some, perhaps a majority of the audience, may have had to "struggle" occasionally "in a net of ratiocination," but all were doubtless entertained and edified. The singing, conducted by Rev A. Herring, is said by those qualified to judge to have been good; with the exception that the tunes might, without any impropriety, have been a little more patriotic. The Declaration of Independence was read by R. L. Stryker Esqr.

We call the attention of our readers to the communication of Hon D. B. Warner. It is interesting as pointing out some important facts relative to the real pecuniary advantages which accrue to us, from our intercourse with foreign traders; and as exhibiting the unjustness of the complaints in which many of them so often indulge.

Not satisfied with the numerous privileges they enjoy in their commerce with the natives within our jurisdiction; being placed on an equal footing, in that respect, with Liberian merchants; and notwithstanding with the enormous profits which, owing to the inability of our merchants to compete with them, they reap from that source only they are continually finding fault, and harping, with bombastic air, upon the obligations under which (as they allege) we are placed to them, on account of the assistance they render to the Government, by the customary dues they pay into the treasury; intimating, no doubt, that their privileges, already, (as some contend) too many, should be increased.

The true state of the case has been very ably pointed out by our correspondent, whose talents and opportunities for observation, qualify him in an eminent degree to judge of the subject on which he has written. From his statements which are doubtless correct, we perceive that the greater dependency is on the part of the traders to our coast; and a conviction of this fact is fastening upon the minds of our intelligent merchants so that the question, whether foreigners between whose governments and ours no treaty stipulations exist, should enjoy the same privileges that are extended to the subjects of those Powers who have recognized and made treaties with Liberia, is exciting considerable attention among them.

We hope that the arguments of our correspondent if fallacious will be refuted; if not, we trust they will put a stop to the empty bombastry of those foreign traders who would make the ignorant believe that they are the principal props of Liberia, by their frequent invidious allusions to the indispensability of their residence among us, or their intercourse with us, to the existence of the Government,—allusions. however, which, while they may mislead the uninformed, serve only to illustrate to intelligent minds Æsop's fable of the "gnat on the bull's horn."

DONATIONS OF BOOKS.

While it would be risible vanity in us to flatter ourselves with the opinion that the world is very much concerned about us as a nation, yet from the evidences which from time to time we receive from different quarters, we are led to conclude that there are hearts abroad which beat warmly for our welfare. Among the numerous testimonials of sympathy an regard which we received from our friends in foreign lands are frequent donations to our public libraries, of valuable books; evincing the interest felt in our intellectual and moral advancement. Sir Horace St Paul of England, Benjamin Coates Esqr of Philadelphia and T. R. Hazard Esqr of Rhode Island are among our most liberal benefactors in this respect.

We have noticed several fine books, presented by these gentlemen, in the libraries at the Government House, and at the Representative Hall; for which we take the liberty to present to them, what we conceive they are entitled to, and which we hope they will accept, the thanks of a grateful community.

Notice to Subscribers.

Our subscribers at the leeward counties will much oblige us, if they will for ward their subscriptions now due, by the earliest opportunity.

A Liberian Book—We learn that a small volume of poetry, by Mr R. H. Gibson, now in press at the Sentinel Office will be out in a few days. Success to Liberian literature.

Drowned—On the 27th ult, two men belonging to the "Government Schooner Lark" while attempting to get on board during very stormy weather, their boat having upset, found, not far from the shore, a watery grave. Their bodies have not been discovered.

Robertsport—We learn that the 26th of July was observed with great spirit and vivacity at the new settlement at Cape Mount, A letter written to a friend of ours states; "Mr Snetter delivered the address for us; after which the mountains in our vicinity resounded with the echo of cannon from the battery of Port Roberts. Not being able to have a "Tea" in consequence of the absence of the "fair sex," the pleasures of the day ended with a well spread and sumptuous table, after which we returned to our duty—watching."

At Bassa Addresses were delivered on the 26th by H. M. West Esqr at Buchanan, and Hon M. A. Rand at Edina.

Burglary—We learn that a few evenings ago some "consummate rascal" broke into the store of Hon. E. J. Roye—and stole (cash) money to the amount of *one hundred and seventy dollars*. We hope the rogue will be apprehended, and brought to justice.

From our Bassa Corespondent.

His majesty king Boeflaw of the Grand Bassa county is now in the hands of the sheriff for safe keeping until his majesty shall have made restitution for his depredations on Topraneo (a native chieftian inhabiting the same section of country, in defiance of the laws, peace and dignity of this Republic.

His imprisonment commenced a fort night ago, since which time he has managed through the activity of his friends to liquidate the amount of two hundred dollars he was required to reimburse Topaneo; and they are now making strenuous efforts to satisfy the demands of the government for a similar amount.

The cause of the outrage appeared to have originated from an alleged violation on the part of Topraneo of the devil law, for which Boeflaw assumed the prerogative to chastise him, this was urged as a plea of justification by his majesty, and if he had not subscribed to a higher law abrogating condign punishment for violations of their peculiar institutions; or in other words if he, in common with the other aborigines, who acknowledge the jurisdiction of Liberia promise to refer all matters of difficulty arising among them to the government of Liberia for adjudication, independent of this newly acquired position his plea would have been an effectual bar in arrest of judgment. But here he found himself bound. and as those who are bound must obey he abides the decision of the authorities.

The trial continued two or three days and a number of witnesses examined; it was held before Hon S. A. Benson V. P. and Superintendent for this county who appointed as associates of the inquisitorial court the venerable Judge Hanson and A W. Gardner Esqr. and after a careful examination of the charge that Boeflaw had attacked with an armed force, Topanyneo's town pillaged it at and reduced it to ashes and killed some of the inhabitants. it was pronounced by the court of investigation that, Boeflaw is guilty of the charge, which is well sustained by the depositions of his own witnesses; and that Boeflaw pay a fine of four hundred dollars for his misconduct, one half to be paid Topraneo to reimburse him for damages sustained and one half to the government as a punishment for his iniquity, and to pay the expenses of the government incured in bringing the offender to justice

The violation of the devil law above alluded to is this; according to the devil law the devil bush is sacred; no stranger shall enter therein; nor shall any violence be done to its sacred branch. Boeflaw charged Topanyo with cutting down his Topra nes devil bush to plant a farm, and sent a messenger to Topraneo to enquire why had he committed this great outrage against their sacred laws Topanee denyed the allegation saying; how can I be so base as to forget and abuse the tree when I was initiated into the mysteries of our sacred institution; it is not so. It appears, however, that the farms had encroached somewhat on the devil bush, so Boeflaw stired up others of his country men, enlisted several of the kings in his service, among whom Wie of New Sess is prominent. marched against Topranee's town and leveled it to the dust. The rest of the insurgents, were cited and attended their trial with the exception of Wie, who refuses to come to justice. he like the guilty Irishman dont want justice.

Boeflaw being the prime mover and the others that appeared being merely mercenary adherents were fined smaller amounts, with the promise of better behaviour on their part in future.

Boeflaw was informed that he might refer his case to the court of law and admiralty of Quarter Sessions, if he felt dissatisfied with the decision of the executive department, he declined, as the natives have had a dreadful idea of that court ever since some murderers were by it sentenced to death and executed. They think that it is death to appear at the bar of that tribunal when the prisoner has taken the life or caused to be taken the life of his fellow man. It puts death in the pot of the assassin, so they had rather be deprived of all they possess than to appear there.

There are other inmates of the prison who are also natives who were committed on the charge of stealing Palm oil on a large scale from J. C. Marshall and also have to stand their trial at the next court of Quarter Session.

Several important buildings are in progress of erection. The foundation of the new court house on fort hill is laid and the superstructure which is to be of brick is being raised. It occupies a very commanding position. On the next square the Ladies Dorcas Society are making vigorous exertions to build an Asylum for the poor; their constitution makes a provision for life membership (honorary) of ladies and gentlemen by the payment of ten dollars; all amounts thus collected are to be devoted to that purpose they also crave social contributions at home and abroad. Who will contribute and who will contitute himself or friend an honorary life member? The agent Dr Smith will cheerfully acknowledge any thing that can be made available.

The new mission building in the Cove in the rear of the lower lagoon is nearly finished and an improving appearance. It is owned by the Protestant Episcopal Mission which designs to establish at that place a Seminary of learning. The Seminary building will be commenced in a few months if the mission can command means sufficient to effect it. If the Cresson fund could be made available, the Mission will be enabled to carry out its grand designs in the department of literature and be of incalculable benefit to our county and through it to our dear country.

The station is named Cresson; it is on the border of the sea, a lagoon intercepts a portion of it from the sea, but at times the sea sweeps over the small strip of beach and lashes the entire front of the Mission Grounds; in other words its frontier is washed by the water's of port Cresson. We hope therefore that no caviling will be indulged respecting Cresson's legacy of 10,000 to the Mission at Port Cresson.

Here is Cresson mission lashed by the majestic waves Port of Cresson!

Come executors be liberal minded dont cavil any longer but let the mission have the money; it could not have been the intention of that generous minded man to have the government bribed with $ 10,000 to change Buchanan into port Cresson; no, he learnt that the harbour was named after him and as there would be a mission established at this point he would endow with $ 10.000 its Seminary of learning, but as the Government prefered Buchanan before him as a name for their city he left the government or rather the city without a penny; its mission would not be to blame and as soon as the mission dubbed a place with the name of Cresson, Cresson's executors are bound for the 10.000.

The government has made the liberal grant of ten acres of land for the use of the mission as it purposes conducting their school on the manual labour system, agriculture and stock raising being a branch of their operations.

About a half mile below the mission premises is the site selected for the erection of a commodious Receptacle for emigrants to be conducted entirely on the hospital system: to which will be attached a bathing establishment stock yard and farm for the better maintenance of the establishment.

It is to be regretted however that notwithstanding considerable timber has been collected on the spot, and the Colonization Society is determined to make every arrangement for the comfortable accomodation of emigrants during their acclimation the work has to stop for want of means. Oh that the M'Donough legacy may be made available and that the different state societies will take under consideration the paramount importance of making preparations here to receive immigrants; unless this is done fearful mortality will continue for the want of proper apartments. Perhaps some good *millionaire* will help us out; dont let this work fail friends for want of means.

Private buildings of improved style, and highly creditable to our enterprising citizens add life to our settlements in this county. I may speak of this more particularly at another time.

The Hall of the Young Men's Literary association is undergoing repairs. The association is eliciting considerable interest in this city

The Ladies Literary Institute are trying to vie with the association, this is a laudable emulation may it continue. Mr Henry M. West gave us an interesting and very appropriate address on the twenty sixth of July last; the address has been solicited for publication and will fall into your hands.

The Hon, M. A. Rand was the orator of the day at Edina he is reported to have done well. We have no doubt that friend Crummel gave you a rich feast.

Some of us are trying to infuse a spirit of general improvement in our community.

There have been several deaths from drowning in the St John River. A Canoe with Palm oil for J. D. Preston was capsized on the 28d July and a native was drowned: on the same evening it appears that a Mr. James Jordan with four natives, attempted to cross the river *at night* in a small canoe, the canoe filled and sank, and with it Jordan and three of the natives sank beneath the flood.

Jordan was a promising young man in the bloom of life, and vigour of health; he came to this country in the unfortunate "Harp," in August 1854.

We stand very much in need of a press, and hope that your sheet will improve in appearance. We often hear our good citizens say that they would send you correspondences if they could read them after you print them.

Be assured, Mr Editor I do not wish to cast any reflection upon your paper; yet as I am writing the *news* I feel that I cannot over.—look any thing tending to general improvement.

Buchanan August 18 5

Episcopal Convocation; 1st Day's Session.

A. M.

The Monrovian Episcopal Convocation assembled on friday, 10th inst, in Trinity church, at 10½ o'clock A. M. where divine service was performed and the Holy communion celebrated, by the Rector of the Parish, the Rev Alexander Crummell, aided by his assistant, the Rev H Greene.

After the conclusion of public worship the

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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