tant interests were resting, the most effectual means that would bring us to see and feel that too much was being contentedly based on a sandy foundation, while the superstructure of our every interest was both rising and expanding daily, were the most wise and proper means that could be devised, and should be traced to, as emanating from the Fountain of wisdom and goodness, who not unfrequently moves in a mysterious way His purposes to perform ; and who, simultaneously with the impious murmuring of short sighted man, ofttimes hides a smiling face behind an apparently frowning providence.

Thus when the severe monetary depression in foreign lands impelled, within the last two years, a curtailment of fifty or sixty thousand dollars in the usual annual appropriation made by foreign missionary and other benevolent societies operating in Liberia, which amount had circulated so freely among our citizens of every class and had in a great measure facilitated both our commercial operations and the redemption of our currency, it is but reasonable to suppose that such a sudden act would create a panic among and be most sensibly felt by a population of Americo-Liberians not exceeding ten thousand. But it most happily tended to discover to those who had never perceived nor realized the fact before, how very impolitic it is to place the basis of our financial operations and substantial prosperity elsewhere than in Liberia, by a manly development through productive industry of the vast resources of this country ; while the very commendable expenditures made in Liberia by the various religious and benevolent institutions should be gratefully regarded simply as auxiliaries.

There were several matters introduced at your last session which received your concurrence, and for the carrying out of which appropriation was duly made ; but for reasons partly beyond my control, as well as those of a prudential nature, I have not succeeded in carrying them out. Among these I will mention my desired and intended visit to Garroway for adjustment, either by pacific or coercive means, of the long standing difficulties between the Niffaus and Podeis, who, though not actively engaged in war, nevertheless obstruct intercourse and stagnate the trade to a considerable degree. The departure of the Lark for England for repairs, leaving us without a suitable *Coasta guarda*, and facilities for traveling, the difficulties growing out of the recapture of the Regina-Cœli in our waters, and the tedious correspondence and business connected with which, making my presence in this city very necessary nearly the whole year, have been the means of most painfully frustrating my cherished purpose of visiting the various settlements of our leeward Counties, and several points along the coast during the year, and of my carrying out several objects that were so very accordant with both legislative and executive policy. I am happy to say, however, that notwithstanding this—excepting the abominable

and deleterious effect produced by the so-called emigration system —which invariably engenders within our jurisdiction wars, kidnapping and consequently a breach of the laws of God and of all christian nations—peace and respect for our laws among the aborigines have been remarkably preserved. And though the influences of our christian and civilized example have not extended as rapidly and as effectually among them as we have desired, yet it is both gratifying and encouraging to us to know by incontrovertible evidence, that the benign influences of our christianity and civilization are hopefully progressing among them—that proselytes are being made annually from their ranks, while the greater part of those living within fifty miles of our settlements are manifestly assimilating themselves to our manners and customs ; and their confidence in and respect for us and our institutions are correspondingly increasing ; and if the Divine blessing shall continue to rest as heretofore upon the great Colonization enterprise in the prosecution of its philanthropic work amidst oppositions and discouragements,—if there be no abatement in the wonted zeal of the Missionary societies operating in this country, and if Liberia will keep its duty and responsibilities prominently in view, there is not a shadow of doubt that the great, and I may say one of the leading objects contemplated in the organization of the great Colonization enterprise, viz : the civilization and christianizing of this vast moral waste, will in due time be consummated.

In a special message at your last session, I requested that you would by law define and proclaim the area of reservation to be made as the corporate bounds of the city of Robertsport ; in order that in laying off the contiguous surplus lands into a farming district, the wishes and the views of the legislature might not be deranged with regard to that settlement. In the absence of any definite action by the legislature on that subject—being urged thereto by the urgent necessity, that the inhabitants of that settlement be placed in possession of their lands as speedily as possible, I instructed the Surveyor early this year to commence laying off farmlands (lots) immediately beyond a line which is parallel to and three miles distant from the street fronting the receptacle, and lying between that building and the bay or harbour. Many of the inhabitants of Robertsport express a wish that the area reserved as its corporate bounds be diminished from three, to one mile square, so as to increase at once the quantity of farm lands in that vicinity, and the facilities for reaching them. I shall be pleased to carry out any wish you may express on that subject. In the month of March 1857, I made a visit to Cape Mount and ascended the bay about twenty miles—which as you are no doubt aware makes an indentation of twenty odd miles from the line of sea coast—and selected on its northern bank, commencing about six miles from Robertsport, a fine tract of land to be laid off in a farming district ; it runs along

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XIII. Colonization Pamphlets

4. Message of the President of Liberia to the Legislature... Monrovia, 1858