fession, would be to profess to be superhuman; and yet we are willing that our policy and reputation should be as closely scrutinized as possible.

After the full and lucid explanations and facts contained in the contemplated history are submitted to an enlightened christian world, Liberia will be content to abide their verdict.

During the last month, the notorious Chevalier arrived on our coast again in the *Phœnix*; and notwithstanding the very unpleasant and unsettled state of the difficulties growing out of the case of the *Regina Cœli*, he had the audacity to commence prosecuting what the laws of Liberia declare to be the slave trade within our jurisdiction, and at the very places at which Captain Simon obtained his so-called emigrants, and the very point off, which the mutiny occurred. The Superintendent at Cape Mount conveyed to me the information of his being on our coast, the second day after his arrival; and through the kindness of Commander J. Hunt, of Her Majesty's Sloop *Alecto*, who was most opportunely in this port, Col: F. Payne was conveyed up in search of the aggressor, and found him anchored off Manna; and though he had been there only a few days, he had already bought nine slaves, and had them secured below. By Chevalier's own confession, verbally as well as in writing, he had bought and paid for them as slaves. A consciousness of having committed a gross crime within our jurisdiction, so palpably demonstrated in the presence of British as well as Liberian officers, and all the circumstances entirely precluding the possibility—as had been in the case of the *Regina Cœli*—of inventing ingenious falsehoods of the complicity of the Liberian authorities, to shield his atrocities, and knowing that his engagement in the slave trade—which is declared by our laws, as well as those of several christian nations, as being piracy—could not be otherwise than condemned and punished by his own government, he became so affrighted (for he trembled from head to foot,) that a confession flowed sponstaneously from his lips and pen ere he recovered himself.

In case our only coasta guarda had not been absent in England for repairs, the *Phœnix* would have been taken as a prize and brought to this port for trial, notwithstanding she would have likely been violently and unlawfully carried off, as was the case with the *Regina Cœli*. I will in a special message, communicate with you more fully and definitely on this aggravated subject. I will simply add however, that Chevalier in his fright, weighed anchor and left that vicinity for parts as yet unknown.

I directed the Superintendent at Robertsport, immediately on Col. Payne's return and report to me, to establish a local police of Americo Liberians at each of the principal points between Grand Cape Mount and Gallinas inclusive, to prevent any shipment of slaves or communication with the vessel, provided she should continue in that vicinity; and also in the name of this government,

to threaten the native chiefs with severe punishment these dries for their co-operation in the illicit business, by a military force, if it should be found necessary.

It is very much to be regretted, and it is an abominable shame, that this young and weak nation, which has every reason to husband its little means and to employ them rather in the great and noble work of the moral and intellectual improvement of our aborigines, with a view of as speedily as possible raising them to a perfect level with us, civilly and religiously—should be necessitated year after year to incur enormous expenses for the prevention of heinous crimes attempted to be forced upon and among the very people we are thus trying to elevate, by the subjects of a professedly christian nation, simply because we are a young and weak nation; and yet with this very nation we are in treaty relations, the stipulations of which declare against and utterly condemn such abominable conduct. I have only to add on this subject gentlemen, that when the history of this French Emigration system, as prosecuted within our jurisdiction shall have been laid before you, giving minute description of the almost innumerable impositions that have been practiced upon us, the intolerable arrogance of naval officers, the many unprincipled misrepresentations that have been made of us by French emigration agents—you will agree with me that forbearance and partial silence through national courtesy, are no longer virtues; that the time has fully come for us to speak out and to act out, with a fixed determination of putting a stop to the abominable system within our jurisdiction at all hazards; though the actual or attempted accomplishment of this duty should cost us our lives, or result in our extermination.

We had by far better reconcile ourselves—and I both hope and feel assured that every Americo Liberian, together with thousands of our aborigines, has fully resolved—to prefer extermination, to have the name of our dear Liberia blotted out from the catalogue of nations by the might of any nation more powerful than we are, and for our remembrance to cease forever on earth, than to submit longer to such arrogant impositions, or to tolerate the prosecution within our jurisdiction, of an abominable system of human oppression, fraught as it is with principles so despicably intolerable to us, as to have caused us to leave the land of our nativity, and with many privations, to seek an asylum upon these heathen shores.

I presume gentlemen, that I will be considered almost unreasonably incredulous when I assert that I cannot believe that His Imperial Majesty's government will openly avow its approval of such conduct by its subjects, nor will it tacitly approve of it, by refusing to speak and act out in condemnation and punishment of its palpably aggressive subjects. It must be that the ingenious misrepresentations that have been made to His Imperial Majesty's government from time to time, and especially within this year, is the main if not

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