port should be transmitted to them. The opportunity was used to recall the attention of the colonists to the principles which must regulate their intercourse with the natives, so long as the society retains its African jurisdiction. From the justice, liberality, and forbearance, which have heretofore characterized that intercourse on the part of the Liberians, the managers indulge the hope that no deviation from those principles will be perceived in the present case, when fully explained and correctly understood.

In regard to the general condition and prospects of the settlements of Liberia, the managers might adduce the testimony of several gentlemen who have recently visited the United States after a residence of several months, and in some cases of several years, within their limits, to show that they are such as to demonstrate the wisdom and benevolence of the society, and leave little for its friends to regret but the deficiency of its means and the tardiness of its movements. In their general statements of the prosperity and promise of the colony, Messrs. Skinner, Seys, Matthias, Buchanan, McDowell, Savage, with Messrs. Shaw and Brown, (intelligent men of color, and the former a resident of more than fourteen years in Liberia,) concur. A letter of Doctor Goheen, a very respectable and well-educated physician, attached to the Methodist mission at Monrovia, dated the 8th of August, 1838, exhibits the most satisfactory evidence of the good character, contentment, and improvement of the settlers, as wonderful as it is gratifying to every humane and Christian heart. He remarks:

"It is a source of great pleasure to me to be able to inform you that all the colonies are in a prosperous condition. The vigorous exertions and anxious devotedness which characterize the efforts of the citizens to elevate and establish themselves permanently in the possession of privileges moral and political, almost amount to enthusiasm.

"The people are industrious and persevering in their attempts to gain a comfortable livelihood, temperate and economical in their habits, and appear to be really enjoying life.

"It is a mistaken idea that among the colonists there are contentious and dissatisfied spirits, who long 'for the flesh pots of Egypt,' and desire to turn back and enjoy 'the proud man's contumely' in America. No, no; there are here no restless persons, nor any who would give up their possessions in Africa for any station, no matter however elevated, in the country where they cannot have equal rights, but must ever be looked upon as the dark and degraded sons of Ham. Many to whom I have put the question, would you prefer to return to America, and live bondmen as you have been? have replied in substance, no, sir; we would rather remain here, possessed of half the privileges and happiness that we now have, than go back and be reported free men in any of the States.

"I have inquired diligently, and I have yet the first man to find who would leave Liberia for a residence in America on any terms.

"This account you will find fully corroborated by the numerous letters written by the colonists, and sent to their afflicted brethren throughout the Union. I am aware that it is not credited by some; but if men are not themselves the best judges of their own enjoyments and feelings, and are not to be believed when they thus publicly testify of the blessings and comforts which they possess, I ask what portion of this community is it that is better qualified to decide."

Again, observes Doctor Goheen:

"It is utterly impossible for you to form a correct estimate of the amount of good that has resulted from the means thus far expended, unless you were here to observe with your own eyes the changes wrought. The man who was a slave in America is here a free citizen; the plebeian and servant there, the lord of the soil here; there the degraded child of affliction, here the claimant and occupant of the highest office in the gift of a free people. Here there are colonists of all professions and trades; governors, divines, lawyers, physicians, and mechanics. Here are those who possess wealth and live at ease; here the inhabitants enjoy all the comforts and luxuries of a soil the most fertile, well watered, and best timbered, that I have ever seen. And, here permit me to ask, why do you colonization folks, in every address that you make, speak of the burning sands and barren shores of Africa? Because, in the vast continent of Africa, the Zahara desert is found. Where is the continent that has no desert? Is there not a great desert within the territory of the United States? England and other European nations get all their ship building and other timber from Africa. The coast from Senegambia southward presents an almost impregnable forest, which contains a much greater variety of trees than you have in the States, and also a sufficiency to supply the world for centuries. But to return. There is here every possible inducement to prompt and stimulate the emigrant to action: a rich soil, a great variety of vegetables, and a ready market. The authorities of this town have recently established a market, which overflows with the products of the country. The comforts possessed by the farmers, mechanics, and merchants, far surpass the opinion that you would form of them, unless you could be present, to be received into houses as splendidly furnished and well provided with all the luxuries that are usually found in the possession of citizens of refined and populous towns.

"The moral and religious state of society is very good; this is emphatically a church-going community. In this town we have a 'Moral Friendship Society,' a 'Union Sisters of Charity Society,' a 'Female Benevolent Society,' a 'Missionary Society,' a flourishing 'Temperance Society;' and to the above list we have recently added a 'Liberia Lyceum.' The lyceum is well attended, and promises to bestow much lasting good upon the citizens.

"From the above facts it is evident that your cause is a good one, and has been blessed and prospered by Heaven's hand; it has found favor in the sight of God and man; it is fraught with considerations the most ennobling; it demands from every well wisher of the human family his suffrage, and appeals directly for assistance to all Christian believers in the coming millenium."

It is true that two or three individuals who have visited Liberia have made representations of its character and condition of a different and discouraging nature; but neither the sources from which they proceed, nor the circumstances under which they were made, can give them the credit to which the testimony just cited, and that by which it is confirmed, is entitled, in the judgment of sober and candid minds. The managers are convinced that the history of colonization affords no instance in which the establishment of colonies in an uncivilized country has been more successful than on the shores of Liberia.

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In their last annual report, it was the painful duty of the managers to notice the continued existence, and, in some respects, augmented atrocities,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books

2. Report of Mr. Kennedy, of Maryland
H.R. report no.283, 27th Congress
3rd session, Washington, D.C. 1843