of the slave trade. Little in relation to it has since been done, which is consolatory to the friends of humanity. Evidence is stated to exist that slave dealers have resorted to new devices, as ingenious as they are detestable, for evading the international arrangements for suppressing the traffic, which had been adopted by our own Government and several of the European Powers. Of these Powers, only one has, of late, shown any practical disposition to enforce its professions, and to redeem its pledges of hostility to the object of their common denunciation. But it is animating to the hopes of philanthropy that the excepted instance is that of a nation possessing both the moral and physical strength to give significance to her interposition. A trade which the Congress of Vienna had described as having "degraded Europe, desolated Africa, and afflicted humanity," became, during the past summer, the theme of solemn council and action in the Parliament of England. The youthful Queen, responding to the wishes of that assembly, has announced her intention of proposing new treaties for annihilating the slave trade, and the still more important purpose of urging the fulfilment of former treaties on that subject, hitherto neglected or evaded. The promised coaction of one of the continental States is said to have been purchased at the cost of half a million sterling from the British treasury; and that of another, besides its pecuniary consideration, may have been prompted by deference to a constant and powerful protector. By these two Governments at least, the late movements of the English sovereign and Parliament will not, it may be supposed, be unheeded. A faithful and vigorous execution of their treaty engagements would so impair the foundations of the slave trade as materially to diminish the importance of any course which might be adopted by the other Powers of continental Europe. Our own country has borne emphatic testimony to her detestation of the nefarious traffic, by denouncing it under all the forms of law as PIRACY. The critic has smiled at this imputed solecism in language. The philanthropist may weep that the operation of the law has been too often as gentle as its tones are severe. Every friend to humanity, and to the true glory of the American name, must fervently desire that the wisdom of Congress may devise means for giving efficacy to its malediction of the most demoniac pursuit which the spirit of avarice ever prompted fallen man to engage in.

One of the most interesting aspects in which the plan of African colonization can be regarded, is its repressive influence on the slave trade. Without insinuating any extravagant claim for the society, the managers may be permitted to notice the historical fact, that, as its operations extended, the trade declined in the vicinity of its settlements, and that the trade has revived as the resources of the society have diminished. Three years ago, it was the subject of common remark, that wherever the society acquired territory, the neighboring slave dealer broke up his factory; that, in the language of a pious and intelligent missionary, wherever the society advanced its foot, the slaver fled before it. Unhappily, from causes for which it is not responsible this benign influence has of late been less signal. But these causes are temporary, and inspire no distrust of the future. Nor can they affect the degree of credit due to the society through the fact that, on the very ruins of slave factories, a Christian republic has been erected, and now flourishes.

Information has reached the managers that vessels from the United States habitually supply the slave vessels on the African coast, and even the pro-

prietors of slave depots, with provisions and merchandise. This evil will, it is feared, continue till the several colonizing associations shall have obtained possession of the whole coast, and have lined it with colonists. The extent of the trade would, it is believed, be diminished, and its horrors be mitigated, if vessels of war, belonging to nations united for the avowed purpose of suppressing it, were to cruise regularly on the coast, with authority to seize, not only vessels with slaves on board, but all vessels fitted out for the trade, on or near the coast, and ready to receive the unhappy prisoners. A practised eye can, it is said, easily distinguish such vessels. By the establishment of colonial settlements on the African coast, at a moderate distance from each other, not only would the present slave marts be destroyed, but such settlements would furnish the means of mutual defence against attacks, either from the slave vessels, or from the savage natives, instigated by the more savage slave dealers. Only a few years have passed since such alleged instigation produced an onslaught on the defenceless colonists at Bassa Cove, and their extermination and flight, before relief from remote settlements could reach them.

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In conclusion, the managers would urge every friend of this society to feel the importauce of this cause of colonization in all its varied and most interesting relations to our country and to Africa. Great efforts, large resources, are demanded for its complete execution. Let the former be made, the latter contributed without delay. It is a work for the whole nation, worthy of its power and treasure. It is fraught with blessings of unspeakable worth to two races of men and two quarters of the world. Let all patriots, all Christians, hear the appeal of suffering millions, and come forward with warm hearts and generous hands for their relief.

Twenty-fifth annual report—January 18, 1842.

Much has been done during the last year to place the administration of justice and the execution of the laws upon a firm foundation. Circumstances of danger have arisen, which have shown some defects in the legal enactments of the colonial council, which have been promptly corrected or supplied. The exercise of the elective franchise has given rise, as in all other countries, to party preferences and political strife. The natives around have in some instances showed themselves in hostile attitudes. But through all these difficulties the majesty of the laws has been respected, and the government has kept on in the even tenor of its way. Much of encouragement is thus furnished to the friends of colonization. This strength and stability of the colonial government gives bright promise for the future. In the hour of peril, it has nerve and sinew sufficient to bear itself bravely through. Such a result will tend powerfully to establish this stupendous scheme of philanthropy in the confidence of the whole American people. After all the dark storms which have beat upon it have spent their force, the colony has emerged with renewed vigor from them all, and the bow of promise appears, at present, encircling with vivid colors that asylum for the oppressed and that home for the free.

The only *real* objection which has ever been urged against the magnificent scheme of colonization has been its impracticability. But now

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