religion, which the humane and enlightened memorialists have conceived it possible, in process of time, to spread on that great continent.

Should the measure suggested be approved, an important question occurs—In what way shall its execution be essayed? A preliminary step would be to provide for the perfect neutrality of the colony, by the explicit assent and engagement of all the civilized powers, whatever dissentions may at any time arise among themselves.

The next important question is, Will it be expedient to attempt the establishment of a new colony in Africa, or to make to Great Britain a proposal to receive the emigrants from the United States into her colony at Sierra Leone?

At Sierra Leone the first difficulties have been surmounted, and a few free people of colour from the United States have been admitted. A gradual addition from the same source (and such would be the natural progress,) would occasion no embarrassment, either in regard to their sustenance or government. Would the British government consent to receive such an accession of emigrants, however eventually considerable, from the United States? Would that government agree, that at the period when that colony shall be capable of self-government and self-protection, it shall be declared independent? In the meantime, will it desire to monopolize the commerce of the colony? This would be injurious to the colonists, as well as to the United States. Should that country, from the nature of its soil, and other circumstances, hold out sufficent allurements, and draw to it, from the United States, the great body of the free people of colour, these would form its strength, and its ability to render its commerce an object of consideration. Now, as the great and permanent benefit of *colonists* was the fundamental principle of the establishment, will the British government decline a proposition calculated to give to that benefit the important extension which will arise from a freedom of commerce? To those, at least, at whose expense and by whose means the colony shall be essentially extended? Should an agreement with Great Britain be effected, no further negotiation, nor any extraordinary expenditure of money, will be required. The work already commenced will be continued —simply that of carrying to Sierra Leone all who are willing to embark.

It would seem highly desirable to confine the migrations to a single colony. The two distinct and independent colonies, established and protected by two independent powers, would naturally imbibe the spirit and distinctions of their patrons and protectors, and put in jeopardy the peace and prosperity of both. Even the simple fact of separate independence, would eventually tend to produce collisions and wars between the two establishments, (unless indeed these were far removed from each other,) and perhaps defeat the further humane and exalted views of those who projected them. The spirit which animated the founders of the colony of Sierra Leone, would be exerted to effect a union of design, and the cordial cooperation of the British government with our own, and, it might be hoped, not without success. It would be in accordance with the spirit of a stipulation in the last treaty of peace, by which the two governments stand pledged to each other, to use their best endeavours to effect the entire abolition of the traffic in slaves, while the proposed institution would tend to diminish the quantity of slavery actually existing.

If, however, such enlarged and liberal views should be wanting, then the design of forming a separate colony might be announced by the American ministers to the maritime powers, and their guaranty of the neutrality of the colony obtained.

Your committee do not think it proper to pursue the subject any further at this time, but that the government should wait the result of the suggested negotiations, on which ulterior measures must depend.

In conclusion your committee beg leave to report a joint resolution, embracing the views herein before exhibited.

Joint Resolution for Abolishing the Traffic in Slaves, and the Colonization of the Free People of Colour of the United States, February 11, 1817. Read, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress Assembled, That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to consult and negotiate with all the governments where ministers of the United States are, or shall be accredited, on the means of effecting an entire and immediate abolition of the traffic in slaves. And also to enter into a convention with the government of

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846