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ADDRESS.

Members of the American Colonization Society,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

One who has spoken as often as I have done on the subject of African Colonization can hardly hope to say anything that he has not said before. My audiences, however, have not always been the same, and in the belief that some of my present hearers now listen to me for the first time, I propose to give a brief account of the origin and formation of the American Colonization Society, its condition now and the aspect generally of the cause to which, for more than half a century, it has been devoted. I wish for your sakes that there was more of romance in what I am about to state. Still, even in this aspect, African Colonization and its offspring, Liberia, are not wholly without their interest.

Success is never without claimants to its paternity, and our cause has had many supposed fathers. The existence, however, in our midst, of a race that was to remain forever a distinct one, must, at an early day, have suggested to many the idea of separation; and taking into view all the circumstances, with the idea of separation, Africa naturally presented itself. In 1773 the Reverend Doctor Hopkins of Rhode Island proposed to educate two colored youths and send them there as missionaries, when his friend, Dr. Stiles, suggested that some thirty or forty suitable persons of the same color should accompany them and make a settlement on the Gold coast under the general direction of a society in America. The settlers were to be employed in agricultural, mechanical and commercial pursuits. This certainly was the germ of African colonization. Nothing came of it, however. The muttering thunder of the coming Revolution drowned all thought save that of Independence. Neither did anything come of Dr. Thornton's idea of taking a company of free blacks to Africa in 1787 and founding a colony; nor was anything more heard of African colonization until 1793, when Dr. Hopkins, elaborating the plan of Dr. Stiles, published a sermon that he had preached before the Connecticut Emancipation Society,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XV. Pamphlets (not in original collection)
15. Liberia: Its Origin, Rise, Progress and Results, by J.H.B.Latrobe, January 20, 1880, in Washington, D.C.
Washington, 1880