with an appendix, that advocated just such a plan as has since been adopted by the American Colonization Society. Neither did anything come of this. The fulness of time had not arrived; nor was it until 1815, forty-two years after Doctors Hopkins and Stiles had originated the idea, that it assumed a practical shape. In this year, Paul Cuffee, a colored man of Massachusetts, who probably had heard of it, carried in his own vessel, commanded by himself, at a cost of $4,000 paid by himself, forty of his people from Boston to the English settlement of Sierra Leone, placed them in charge of a society that he had been instrumental in forming on a previous voyage, and returning to the United States died in the following year. Born in New Bedford, in 1759, in poverty and obscurity, he had won wealth and respectability by industry, intelligence and integrity, and "moved," as he said, "by a desire to raise his brethren in the United States to civil and religious liberty in the land of their forefathers," had thus taken the initiative in practical colonization. In the rushing currents of events, the humbler individuals who have added to the volume or influenced the direction of the stream are often overwhelmed and lost sight of. So it has been with Paul Cuffee. But his name should never be omitted in even the briefest history of African colonization.

It must not be supposed, however, that Africa was the only place thought of along with the idea of a separation of the two races. "The Spanish and Portuguese settlements in South America," "a suitable territory in Louisiana," and "the vast territory," as it was then called, "between the Ohio river and the great lakes," were successively discussed, as places to which the Negro race in America, as it became free, might advantageously emigrate. At a meeting at which the last named found advocates, a person present is reported to have said, "Whether any of us will live to see it or not, the time will come when white men will want all that region, will have it, and our colony will be overwhelmed by them." It would seem, just now, that we are about to test the truth of this utterance of seventy years ago. Notwithstanding all this difference of opinion, however, the public mind chrystallized at last upon Africa as the best location for the proposed colony.

Paul Cuffee died in 1816, and in December of the same year the American Colonization Society was organized. Foremost among its founders was Robert Finley of New Jersey. In season and out of season he toiled in its behalf. He declared that he knew the scheme was from God; and with this conviction to sustain him he imbued numbers with an equal enthusiasm. Finley, however, soon found that it was one thing to applaud his zeal and admit the expediency of his plans, and a very different thing to take active measures to promote them; and there is no telling whether Finley himself might not have become discouraged, had not Charles Marsh, a member of Congress from Ver-



mont, come to his assistance. The plan, Marsh said, was too good and noble to be permitted to fail; and it is owing to what has been called his "inexhaustible adroitness and persistency" that a preliminary meeting was held, with Henry Clay as chairman. Elias B. Caldwell, Finley's brother-in-law, and clerk of the Supreme Court, was the chief speaker; Robert Wright, of Maryland, submitted a constitution, which was adopted; and at the first meeting under it, Mr. Justice Bushrod Washington was elected President. In this way the American Colonization Society came into existence, forty-three years after Dr. Hopkins and his friend, Dr. Stiles, had suggested the idea. They, it is true, had regarded it as a missionary enterprise only. There were others, however, who hoped that it would lead to a separation of the Negroes from what the masters said was an injurious contact with their slaves. Others, like Paul Cuffee, who believed that it would tend to raise the Negroes in the United States to civil and religious liberty in the land of their forefathers. Others again supported it as likely to promote emancipation. Others, who looked forward to the commerce that would follow the establishment of a colony on the borders of a vast continent, which would be a virgin market for the products of manufacturing civilization; and others again who fancied that, in some undefined way, African colonization would afford a solution of the negro question in this country. And it was well that all this was so. Co-operation, regardless of motive, was the necessity of the occasion. However varied the views of the friends of the Society respectively, all were agreed upon the establishment of a colony to which the free people of color might emigrate, when they believed they would better their condition by seeking a new home beyond the sea; and Liberia stands to the credit of them all.

The Society having been organized, a site for the settlement was to be selected; and for this purpose Mills and Burgess were sent to Africa in 1818, and fixed upon Sherbro Island, not far from Sierra Leone. To this place the Reverend Samuel Bacon, an Episcopal clergyman, led the first expedition in the ship *Elizabeth*, in 1820. The vessel had been chartered by the United States under the following circumstances. Congress had made it penal to import slaves after the year 1807, and in 1818 had increased the penalty. A law as then passed, Oct. 3, 1819, of which Charles Fenton Mercer, of Virginia, was the author, which provided that slaves illegally imported, or taken at sea, should be held in the custody of the United States until removed from the country; and the President was authorized to appoint an agent to take care of them. Mr. Monroe, then President, saw at once, that by co-operating with the American Colonizotion Society, the design of the law might be carried out, both equitably and economically; and he appointed Mr. Bacon, along with Mr. John P. Baukson, of Phila-

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