but from general reasoning on the human character, and my knowledge of many individuals among the free blacks. When this first step is taken, and in most enterprizes the greatest difficulty lies in the first step; when a settlement of free blacks shall have actually been formed, the way opened, and the first difficulties surmounted; others will soon be disposed to follow. If successful and prosperous, as it certainly will be if properly conducted, its success will soon be known to the free blacks, in every part of the country. However distrustful of the whites, they will confide in the reports made to them by people of their own colour and class. The prosperity of the settlement, and the advantageous condition of the settlers, will soon be universally understood and ~~received~~ believed, and indeed will be far more apt to be ~~underrated~~ exaggerated than ~~exaggerated~~ undervalued. The most ignorant & stupid of the free people of colour will soon understand, or believe, that in the colony they may obtain a state of equality, opulence and distinction, to which they can never aspire in this country. Hence the desire to join their friends and equals there, may be expected soon to become general among them.

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nor is it too much to hope and anticipate, that this desire will speedily grow into a passion; that the difficulty will be not to find colonists, but to select them; and that the hope of being received into the favoured number, for whom it may be practicable to provide annually, will ere long become a most powerful and operative incentive, to industry sobriety and general good conduct, among the whole class from which the selection will be annually made.

Having detained you thus long, my dear sir, much too long I am afraid, with these preliminary observations, on the benefits which may be expected from this undertaking, I proceed now to the manner of carrying it into execution. I shall not, however, treat this branch of the subject in its whole extent, for which this is not the proper place, but shall confine myself to the objects more immediately in view at this time, the choice of a proper situation for the first settlement, and the circumstances to which the attention of the agent, who is to be sent out for the purpose of exploring the ground, ought chiefly to be directed.

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