where a great commercial city would arise; and to this ~~must be~~ mart the return cargoes purchased above would gradually find their way, down the stream. Thus an immense circle of commerce would imperceptibly be formed, embracing the whole course of the Niger, and the vast countries which it waters and lays open & connecting them all with each other, & with the whole commercial world. For a very considerable time this commerce would be confined to the countries far up the river, near its source, where settlements would first be formed, and civilization would commence. As the communication between these first settlements and those on the Atlantick, became more & more safe easy & expeditious, by means of intermediate settlements, good roads, and improved inland navigation, ~~settlements~~ colonies & commerce would extend farther & farther down the river. Other settlements would soon be commenced at its mouth, which in the same manner would extend upwards. At last these two branches would meet & unite, in

in a commerce vast as the stream on which it would be borne, & as the country which it would civilize enlighten & adorn.

Ages indeed may be required for the full attainment of these objects. Untoward events or ~~an~~ unforeseen difficulties may retard or defeat them. But the prospect is animating, and the hope of success is sufficient to stimulate us to the utmost exertion. Who can count the millions that in future times, shall know & bless the names of those, by whom this magnificent and stupendous scheme of beneficence & philanthropy, has been conceived, and shall be carried into execution?! Throughout the vast regions of Middle & Southern Africa, then filled with populous & polished nations, their memory shall be revered & their praises sung, when other countries, & even the rising & vigorous nation to which they belong, now in its flower of youth, shall have run their circle of rise prosperity & decline, and shall be no longer known except by the monuments of arts genius & industry, the works of their

better