

Copy of a Letter from Count Schimmelman, late Minister of State in the Kingdom of Denmark, enclosing a Letter from the Colonial Department of the Danish Government, to the Governors of the Danish Colonies in Africa.

GENTLEMEN—The worthy and amiable clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Henderson, whose distinguished qualities have been known and acknowledged also in Denmark, especially by his unwearied and successful endeavours to promote the noble aim of the Bible Societies in this country, as in so many other parts of Europe, has been determined, in a letter from London, to apply to me for seconding, as far as in my power, the humane and benevolent views of the Society, which has been formed in North America, for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States; and which also, at present, is devising to contrive means of establishing, on the west coast of Africa, those poor and partly abused people.

You, Gentlemen, have been appointed by the respectable American Society, as their agents, on a mission to explore a part of the western coast of Africa, which might be fit for the purpose; and it being possible, that you also may visit the Danish settlements in Africa, I am not sensible, among the means in my power, of any better medium to answer the confidence shown me by the above mentioned intimation, and to render you, Gentlemen, some little service, than by requesting our Department of the Colonies, to communicate to you an official letter of recommendation to the Danish authorities in Africa.

Our Department of the Colonies having immediately granted my request on that account, please to accept of the enclosed letter of introduction, in which you are very well recommended to the Danish Government in Guinea, in order that, whenever the scheme of your voyage possibly might conduct you to the Danish settlements in Africa, you may the more be assured of a good and kind reception.

I earnestly wish that your noble and humane endeavours, may, by the blessings of God Almighty, be crowned with success, and that the result of your exertions may not serve to strengthen, but even to confute that idea, to which I cannot help being inclined, of almost invincible difficulties contrary to the colonizing of free negroes and mulattoes in Africa. I also hope and wish that the highly expensive and successively increasing efforts, which the organization, the maintaining, and prosperity of such a colony, are deemed to request, may not be found exceeding the means of a private society, which cannot properly employ that common, but

very strong expedient for exciting and strengthening human energy—I mean interest and gain.

Wishing you all manner of blessing, prosperity, and happiness,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient,

E. G. SCHIMMELMAN.

Copenhagen, March 2d, 1818.

*To Samuel Mills, and Ebenezer Burgess,
Gentlemen.*

(C.)

Extracts from Letters of the Rev. Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess, while in England, to the Secretary.

“ London, 30th Dec. 1817.

“ We have already had interviews with the principal gentlemen to whom our letters were addressed. They have received us with much cordiality, and view the objects of the American Society with sentiments of enlarged benevolence.”

“ London, 16th Jan. 1818.

“ Our reception among the friends of humanity, who have been, and are, the successful advocates of the cause of Africans, has been very cordial, and sincerely affectionate. In their goodness, they have anticipated our wishes, and spared us the delicate office of soliciting favours.”

“ London, 17th Jan. 1818.

“ His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Patron and President of the African Institution, expressed his pleasure to see us at the Gloucester House, in company with Mr. Wilberforce. He was much gratified with the language and spirit of our commission. He expressed his intention to answer the letter of the President of the American Society; his confidence that there was a perfect coincidence in the grand objects of the American Society, and the African Institution; his hope that there would be a friendly intercourse between the two bodies; and his earnest desire, that their judicious and well directed exertions might effect the entire abolition of the slave trade, and contribute to the best interests of the African race, both at home and abroad.”