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1861.
THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

LIBERIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Colonization.

We quote the following remarks of President LINCOLN, on the Independence of Liberia and Colonization. The Colonization Societies of New York and Pennsylvania have adopted earnest resolutions in behalf of both objects.

"If any good reason exists why we should perseverre longer in withholding our recognition of the Independence and Sovereignty of Hayti and Liberia, I am unable to discern it. Unwilling, however, to inaugurate a novel policy in regard to them, without the approbation of Congress, I submit for your consideration the expediency of an appropriation for maintaining a Chargé d' Affaires near each of those new States. It does not admit of a doubt that important commercial advantages might be secured by favorable treaties with them.

"Under and by virtue of the act of Congress, entitled "An act to confiscate property used for insurrectionary purposes," approved August 6, 1861, the legal claims of certain persons to the labor and service of certain other persons have become forfeited, and numbers of the latter thus liberated, are already dependent on the United States, and must be provided for in some way. Besides this, it is not impossible that some of the States will pass similar enactments for their own benefit respectively, and by operation of which, persons of the same class will be thrown upon them for disposal. In such cases I recommend that Congress provide for accepting such persons from such States, according to some mode of valuation in lieu pro tanto of direct taxes, or upon some other plan to be agreed upon with such States respectively, that such persons on such acceptances by the General Government be at once deemed free, and that, in any event steps be taken for colonizing both classes, (or the one first mentioned, if the other shall not be brought into existence,) at some place or places in a climate congenial to them. It might be well to consider, too, whether the free colored people already in the United States, could not, so far as individuals may desire, be included in such colonization.

"To carry out the plan of colonization may involve the acquiring of territory, and also the appropriation of money beyond that to be expended in the territorial acquisition. Having practised the acquisition of territory for nearly sixty years, the question of the constitutional power to do so is no longer an open one with us. The power was questioned at first by Mr. JEFFERSON, who, however, in the purchase of Louisiana, yielded his scruples on the plea of great expediency. If it be said that the only legitimate object of acquiring territory is to furnish homes for white men, this measure effects that object, for the emigration of color-d men leaves additional room for white men remaining or coming here. Mr. JEFFERSON, however, placed the importance of procuring Louisiana more on political and commercial grounds, than on providing room for population. On this whole proposition, including the appropriation of money with the acquisition of territory, does not the expediency amount to absolute necessity, that, without which, the Government itself cannot be perpetuated if the war continues?

"In considering the policy to be adopted for suppressing the insurrection, I have been anxious and careful that the inevitable conflict for this purpose shall not degenerate into a violent and remorseless revolutionary struggle. I have, therefore, in every case, thought it proper to keep the integrity of the Union prominent as the primary object of the contest on our part, leaving all questions, which are not of vital military importance, to the more deliberate action of the Legislature."