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THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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CAUSE OF THE SOCIETY

WASHINGTON:
1830.

JAMES C. DUNN, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER; GEORGETOWN, D. C.
Philanthropists and Statesmen in the Union, whether they be citizens of slave-holding or non-slave-holding States. It is believed by your Committee, that the memorial itself is well calculated to present the subject in a proper point of view, and to interest the public mind in the laudable objects of that Society; they therefore refer to the same as a part of this report. Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:"

"Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That they view with deep and friendly interest, the exertions of the American Colonization Society, in establishing an Asylum on the coast of Africa, for the Free People of Colour of the United States: and that the Senators and Representatives in Congress from this State, be, and they are hereby requested, to use their efforts to facilitate the removal of such free persons of colour as may desire to emigrate from the United States to the Colony of Africa, and to ensure to them the protection and patronage of the General Government, so far as shall be deemed consistent with the safety and interest of the United States.

"Resolved, That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress."

During the year 1828, the following joint Resolutions passed the Senate of Kentucky, with only three dissenting voices:

Resolved, &c. That our Senators and Representatives in Congress, be requested to use their best endeavours to procure an appropriation of money of Congress, to aid, so far as is consistent with the Constitution of the United States, in Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States, in Africa, under the direction of the President of the United States.

2. That the Governor of this State be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution, to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Governors of the several States.

By Delaware.

Whereas the "Wilmington Union Colonization Society," professing by its Constitution to be "Auxiliary to the American
Colonization Society," and that the object to which its views shall be exclusively directed, is the colonization on the coast of Africa, with their own consent, of the Free People of Colour of the United States, has, by memorial addressed to this General Assembly, requested the expression of an opinion whether their views deserve the National support, and with the National funds, to such extent as the wisdom of Congress shall deem prudent: And in the said memorial, has set forth that the system of colonizing the Free People of Colour on the coast of Africa, has already been commenced by the "American Colonization Society," and that experiments have proved the plans adopted, to be no longer doubtful of success, if suitable National encouragement be given; and whereas, it satisfactorily appears to this Legislature, that the memorialists are engaged in endeavouring to execute one of the grandest schemes of philanthropy that can be presented to the American People, that it is no less than the cause of humanity, suffering humanity—the redemption of an ignorant and much-injured race of men, from a degradation worse than servitude and chains, and placing them in that country on that luxuriant soil, and in that genial climate pointed to by the finger of Heaven as their natural inheritance:

And it further appears to this legislature, that the object of this Society is two-fold; for while it immediately and ostensibly directs its energies to the amelioration of the condition of the Free People of Colour, it relieves our country from an unprofitable burden, and which, if much longer submitted to, may record upon our history the dreadful cries of vengeance that but a few years since were registered in characters of Blood at St. Domingo.

Therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware, in General Assembly met, That it is requisite for our prosperity, and what is of more important concern, essential to our safety, that measures should be taken for the removal from this country of the free negroes and free mulattoes.

Resolved, That this General Assembly approve the objects of the American Colonization Society, and consider that these
objects deserve public support, and that they ought to be fostered and encouraged by the National Government, and with the National funds.

Resolved, That the Senators of this State in Congress, with the Representative from this State, be requested to approve and promote in the Councils of the Nation, measures for removing from this country to Africa, the free coloured people who may be willing to emigrate.

Resolved, That the Speakers of the two Houses be requested officially to sign these resolutions, and forward a copy to each of our Senators, and a copy to our Representative in Congress.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested, to use their efforts to induce the Government of the United States to aid the American Colonization Society in effecting the object of their institution, which is so eminently calculated to advance the honour and interest of our common country.

Resolved, That the Governbr be, and he is hereby, requested to forward to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress a copy of the foregoing resolution.

EDWARD KING,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SAMUEL WHEELER,
Speaker of the Senate.

January 24, 1828.

Secretary of State's Office,
Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 26, 1828.

I certify the above to be a correct copy of the original roll remaining in this office.

JEREMIAH McLENE, Secretary of State.

By Vermont—Nov. 12, 1827.

Vermont Legislature.—On the petition of the Vermont Colonization Society, the committee reported a resolution instructing our Senators and Members in Congress to use their exertions in procuring the passage of a law, in aid of the objects of the Society; which was read, and adopted.

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Memorial of the Kentucky Colonization Society.

We are happy to perceive that this Society have resolved to solicit support to the great enterprise in which they are engaged from the National Government. This, we are perfectly convinced, is the only power adequate to the complete accomplishment of the design. It seems obvious that the States of the South could not, without difficulty, effect the object; and, it is certain, the Northern States will think they have done much, should they consent to pay their equal proportion of the expense out of the common fund of the Nation.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled.

The undersigned petitioners, citizens of the State of Kentucky, would respectfully represent, that we cordially unite with our fellow citizens of other States in the Union, in deeply lamenting the miseries attendant upon slavery; and that we are anxious to see those miseries mitigated by every possible means not repugnant to the rights of individuals or to the constitution of the United States.

It would be superfluous for us, on the present occasion, to attempt an enumeration of the evils resulting from slavery among us; permit us however, to present to your contemplation a picture drawn by the illustrious Jefferson nearly fifty years ago. We would particularly call your attention to that part of it which breathes a prophetic spirit, as applicable to the present times: "The whole commerce between master and slave," says he, "is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions, the most unmitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submissions on the other. Our children see this, and learn to imitate it; for man is an imitative animal. This quality is the germ of education in him. From his cradle to his grave he is learning what he sees others do. If a parent had no other motive either in his own philanthropy or self-love, for restraining the intemperance of passion towards his slave, it should always be a sufficient one that his child is present. But generally it is not sufficient. The parent storms, the child looks on, catches the lineaments of wrath, puts on the same airs in the circle of smaller slaves, gives a loose to his worst of passions; and thus nursed, educated, and exercised in tyranny, cannot but be stamped by it with odious peculiarities. The man must be a prodigy who can retain his manners and morals unjured by such circumstances. And with what execrations should the statesman be loaded, who, permitting one half of the citizens thus to trample on the rights of the others, transforms those
into despoils, and these into enemies; destroys the morals of the one part, and the amor patriae of the other. For if the slave can have a country in this world, it must be any other in preference to that in which he is born to live and labor for another: in which he must lock up the faculties of his nature, contribute as far as depends on his individual endeavors to the evanishment of the human race, or entail his own miserable condition on the endless generations proceeding from him. With the morals of the people, their industry also, is destroyed. For in a warm climate no man will labour for himself that can make another labour for him. This is so true, that of the proprietors of slaves, a very small proportion indeed are ever seen to labour. And can the liberties of a nation be ever thought secure, when we have removed their only firm basis—a conviction in the minds of the people, that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with his wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep forever: that considering numbers, nature, and natural means only, a revolution of the wheel of fortune, an exchange of situation is among possible events: that it may become probable by supernatural interference! The Almighty has no attribute which can take side with us in such a contest. But it is impossible to be temperate and to pursue this subject through the various considerations of policy, of morals, of history, natural and civil. We must be contented to hope they will force their way into every one's mind. I think a change already perceptible, since the origin of the present (American) revolution. The spirit of the master is abating, that of the slave rising from the dust; his condition mollifying; the way, I hope, is preparing, under the auspices of Heaven, for a total emancipation; and that this is disposed, in the order of events, to be with the consent of their masters, rather than by their extirpation."

If such remarks were appropriately made at a time when there were only about seven hundred thousand blacks in the United States, how much more forcibly will they apply to the present, when there are probably not less than two millions and a half? But we would not be understood as advocating the cause of absolute emancipation. Far from it: For emancipation, without something more were done, would but render our situation doubly deplorable. It is the removal of the Free Blacks from among us, that is to save us, sooner or later, from those dreadful events foreboded by Mr. Jefferson, or from the horrors of St. Domingo. The present number of this unfortunate, degraded, and anomalous class of inhabitants cannot be much short of half a million; and the number is fast increasing. They are emphatically a mildew upon our fields, a scourge to our backs, and a stain upon our escutcheon. To remove them is mercy to ourselves, and justice to them.

Viewing, therefore, with the highest approbation, the exertions which are making by the friends of Colonization throughout the United States, for the removal of the Free Blacks to the land of their fathers; and believing
that the enterprise, if successfully prosecuted, will meliorate our own condition and that of the Colonists, and that it is intimately connected with the present dearest interests and future welfare of our beloved country, we, as patriots, christians, and philanthropists, do most earnestly request and petition your honorable body to extend its energetic arm for the complete and speedy accomplishment of this great and glorious undertaking. We would not presume to prescribe the mode by which your patronage and assistance shall be afforded: but we trust that every constitutional expedient in your power will be adopted: and we would beg leave to suggest, that a donation of some portion of either the public treasure or territory of the United States, and a free employment of its navy in the transportation of Colonists, will be among the most feasible and efficient measures which can be adopted.

Since the formation of our Government, millions of dollars have been annually expended for the maintenance and comfort of the North American Natives, exclusive of the purchase-money for their lands. No one has ever questioned the policy or doubted the justice of this measure:—and it is still to be hoped that the good faith which has been pledged by the preceding administrators of our government, will not be violated by their successors. We would plead the precedent for the extension of an equally liberal hand to the oppressed African. His claim, if not superior, is at least of equal dignity with that of the savage. It may be said, perhaps, that the curse is forever to hang upon the devoted heads of the descendants of Ham: But woe to the agents by whom that curse is perpetuated!—Finally; we will close our petition to your honorable body in behalf of the Free Negro, in the words of a Legislator of far greater eminence and authority than Jefferson; "It shall not seem hard unto thee, when thou sendest him away free from thee: And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty. Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flocks, and out of thy floor, and out of thy wine-press: of that wherewith the Lord thy God hath blessed thee, thou shalt give unto him: And the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all that thou doest." In duty, &c.

Annual Meetings of Auxiliary Societies.

We have been favoured with a copy of the Tenth Annual Report of the Vermont State Colonization Society. It is a brief, but comprehensive and interesting document. The following extract will show the spirit and energy with which our great and good cause is prosecuted among its early and devoted friends in this state:

At a meeting of the Managers of this Society in October last, a commit-