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THE

AFRICAN REPOSITORY,

AND

COLONIAL JOURNAL.

VOL. III.

Published by order of the Managers of
THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

THE PROFITS ARISING FROM THIS WORK, ARE, DEVOTED TO THE
CAUSE OF THE SOCIETY.

Washington:
1828.

JAMES C. DUNN, PRINTER; GEORGETOWN, D. C.
rects the operations of the Colony, an opportunity to pronounce on its actual condition and circumstances—to the refutation of slanders, and the shame of, perhaps, the most formidable class of opposers—our mercantile visitors—whose incompetency to form a just estimate of the state of the Colony, is as apparent to us while they are here, as their officiousness in pronouncing their opinions at home must be annoying to you.

A visit to the Colony will subject a gentleman to the single inconvenience of sleeping on board of the vessel: with this precaution, experience proves that he may remain at Montserado three months, spending the whole of every day on shore, without risk. A delicate constitution might by such a visit, escape the trial of an American winter—and, as many valetudinarians have already experienced, exchange itself for a healthy habit. The Board, consisting of several professional gentlemen, I presume cannot want valetudinarians. I have ordered a beautiful boat from the U. States, which will probably be here early in January—and wholly at his service; and there is not a man in the Colony, that would not, from the noblest of sentiments—enlightened gratitude to the best of his earthly benefactors—claim it as a privilege, to become his bargeman.

Respectfully your obt. Servt.

J. ASHMUN.

Address of the Colonists to the Free People of Colour in the U. S.

The following, will doubtless be perused with very deep and general interest, especially by those to whom it is addressed. The opinions of this class of persons are becoming very favourable to Colonization; the number already anxious to emigrate exceeds the means possessed by the Society for their removal; and statements like those now communicated by the Colonists themselves, cannot fail to increase this number tenfold.

At a numerous meeting of the citizens of Monrovia, held at the Court-House on the 27th day of August, 1827, for the purpose of considering the expediency of uniting in an address to the coloured people of the United States, John H. Folks, Esquire, in the chair—It was

Resolved, That a committee of four persons be appointed, to frame a circular address to be published in the United States, for the better informa-
tion of the people of colour in that country respecting the state of this Colony, and the condition of the settlers—and

That Captains James C. Barbour and F. Devany, W. L. Weaver, Esq., and the Rev. C. M. Waring and George R. McGill, be the committee to prepare, and report the said address, on Tuesday the 4th day of September next.

Tuesday, September 4th, 1827.

The forenamed committee reported the following address, which was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the United States, and there published for the information of the coloured people of that country.

(CIRCULAR.)

As much speculation and uncertainty continues to prevail among the people of colour in the United States, respecting our situation and prospects in Africa; and many misrepresentations have been put in circulation there, of a nature slanderous to us, and in their effects injurious to them; we feel it our duty by a true statement of our circumstances, to endeavour to correct them.

The first consideration which caused our voluntary removal to this country, and the object which we still regard with the deepest concern, is liberty—liberty, in the sober, simple, but complete sense of the word—not a licentious liberty—nor a liberty without government—or which should place us without the restraint of salutary laws. But that liberty of speech, action, and conscience, which distinguishes the free disfranchised citizens of a free state. We did not enjoy that freedom in our native country: and, from causes, which, as respects ourselves, we shall soon forget forever, we were certain it was not there attainable for ourselves or our children. This, then, being the first object of our pursuit in coming to Africa, is probably the first subject on which you will ask for information. And we must truly declare to you, that our expectations and hopes in this respect, have been realized. Our Constitution secures to us, so far as our condition allows, "all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens of the U. States:" and these rights and these privileges are ours. We are proprietors of the soil we live on; and possess the rights of freeholders. Our suffrages, and, what is of more importance, our sentiments and our opin-
ions have their due weight in the government we live under.—
Our laws are altogether our own: they grew out of our circum-
estances; are framed for our exclusive benefit, and administered
either by officers of our own appointment, or such as possess our
confidence. We have a judiciary, chosen from among ourselves;
we serve as jurors in the trial of others; and are liable to be
tried only by juries of our fellow-citizens, ourselves. We have
all that is meant by liberty of conscience. The time and mode
of worshipping God, as prescribed us in his word, and dictated
by our conscience, we are not only free to follow, but are pro-
tected in following.

Forming a community of our own, in the land of our forefa-
thers; having the commerce and soil and resources of the coun-
try at our disposal; we know nothing of that debasing inferiority
with which our very colour stamped us in America: there is no-
thing here to create the feeling on our part—nothing to cherish
the feeling of superiority in the minds of foreigners who visit us.
It is this moral emancipation—this liberation of the mind from
worse than iron fetters, that repays us, ten thousand times over,
for all that it has cost us, and makes us grateful to God and our
American patrons for the happy change which has taken place in
our situation. We are not so self-complacent as to rest satis-
fied with our improvement, either as regards our minds or our
circumstances. We do not expect to remain stationary. Far
from it. But we certainly feel ourselves for the first time, in a
state to improve either to any purpose. The burden is gone
from our shoulders: we now breathe and move freely—and know
not (in surveying your present state) for which to pity you most,
the empty name of liberty, which you endeavour to content your-
selves with in a country that is not yours; or the delusion which
makes you hope for ampler privileges in that country hereafter.
Tell us; which is the white man, who, with a prudent regard to
his own character, can associate with one of you on terms of
equality? Ask us, which is the white man who would decline
such association with one of our number whose intellectual and
moral qualities are not an objection? To both these questions
we unhesitatingly make the same answer:—There is no such
white man.

We solicit none of you to emigrate to this country; for we
know not who among you prefers rational independence, and
the honest respect of his fellow-men, to that mental sloth and
careless poverty, which you already possess, and your children
will inherit after you in America. But if your views and aspi-
rations rise a degree higher—if your minds are not as servile as
your present condition—we can decide the question at once;
and with confidence say, that you will bless the day, and your
children after you, when you determined to become citizens of
Liberia.

But we do not hold this language on the blessing of liberty,
for the purpose of consoling ourselves for the sacrifice of health,
or the suffering of want, in consequence of our removal to Afri-
ca. We enjoy health after a few months' residence in the
country, as uniformly, and in as perfect a degree, as we possess-
ed that blessing in our native country. And a distressing scar-
city of provisions or any of the comforts of life, has for the last
two years been entirely unknown, even to the poorest persons
in this community. On these points there are, and have been,
much misconception, and some malicious misrepresentations in
the United States.

We have nearly all suffered from sickness, and of the earliest
emigrants, a large proportion fell in the arduous attempt to lay
the foundation of the Colony. But are they the only persons
whose lives have been lost in the cause of human liberty, or sa-
cificed to the welfare of their fellow-men? Several out of every
ship's company, have within the last four years been carried off
by sickness, caused by the change of climate. And death occa-
sionally takes a victim from our number, without any regard
at all to the time of his residence in this country. But we nev-
er hoped by leaving America, to escape the common lot of mort-
sals—the necessity of death, to which the just appointment of
Heaven consigns us. But we do expect to live as long, and
pass this life with as little sickness as yourselves.

The true character of the African climate is not well under-
stood in other countries. Its inhabitants are as robust, as
healthy, as long lived, to say the least, as those of any other
country. Nothing like an epidemic has ever appeared in this
Colony; nor can we learn from the natives, that the calamity of
a sweeping sickness ever yet visited this part of the continent.
But the change from a temperate to a tropical country is a great one—too great not to affect the health more or less—and in the cases of old people and very young children, it often causes death. In the early years of the Colony, want of good houses, the great fatigue, and dangers of the settlers, their irregular mode of living, and the hardships and discouragements they met with, greatly helped the other causes of sickness, which prevailed to an alarming extent, and was attended with great mortality. But we look back to those times as to a season of trial long past, and nearly forgotten. Our houses and circumstances are now comfortable—and, for the last two or three years, not one person in forty from the middle and southern states, has died from the change of climate. The disastrous fate of the company of settlers who came out from Boston in the Brig Vine eighteen months ago, is an exception to the common lot of emigrants; and the causes of it ought to be explained.—Those people left a cold region in the coldest part of winter, and arrived here in the hottest season of our year. Many of them were too old to have survived long in any country. They most imprudently neglected the prescriptions of our very successful physician, the Rev. Lot Carey, who has great experience and great skill in the fevers of the country—and depended on medicines brought with them, which could not fail to prove injurious. And in consequence of all those unfortunate circumstances, their sufferings were severe; and many died. But we are not apprehensive that a similar calamity will befall any future emigrants, except under similar disadvantages.

People now arriving, have comfortable houses to receive them; will enjoy the regular attendance of a physician in the slight sickness that may await them; will be surrounded and attended by healthy and happy people, who have borne the effects of the climate, who will encourage and fortify them against that despondency, which alone, has carried off several in the first years of the Colony.

But you may say, that even health and freedom, as good as they are, are still dearly paid for, when they cost you the common comforts of life, and expose your wives and children to famine and all the evils of want and poverty. We do not dispute the soundness of this conclusion neither—but we utterly deny that it has any application to the people of Liberia.
Away with all the false notions that are circulating about the barrenness of this country—they are the observations of such ignorant or designing men, as would injure both it and you. A more fertile soil, and a more productive country, so far as it is cultivated, there is not, we believe, on the face of the earth.—Its hills and its plains, are covered with a verdure which never fades; the productions of nature keep on in their growth through all the seasons of the year. Even the natives of the country, almost without farming tools, without skill, and with very little labour, make more grain and vegetables than they can consume, and often more than they can sell.

Cattle, swine, fowls, ducks, goats and sheep, thrive without feeding, and require no other care than to keep them from straying.—Cotton, coffee, indigo and the sugar-cane, are all the spontaneous growth of our forests; and may be cultivated, at pleasure, to any extent, by such as are disposed. The same may be said of rice, indian corn, guinea corn, millet, and too many species of fruits and vegetables to be enumerated. Add to all this, we have no dreary winter here, for one half of the year to consume the productions of the other half. Nature is constantly renewing herself—and constantly pouring her treasures all the year round, into the laps of the industrious. We could say on this subject more, but we are afraid of exciting too highly the hopes of the imprudent. Such persons we think will do well to keep their rented cellars, and earn their twenty-five cents a day, at the wheel-barrow, in the commercial towns of America; and stay where they are. It is only the industrious and virtuous that we can point to independence and plenty, and happiness in this country. Such people are nearly sure to attain, in a very few years, to a style of comfortable living, which they may in vain hope for in the United States. And however short we come of this character ourselves, it is only a due acknowledgment of the bounty of Divine Providence, to say, that we generally enjoy the good things of this life to our entire satisfaction.

Our trade and commerce is chiefly confined to the coast, to the interior parts of the continent, and to foreign vessels. It is already valuable and fast increasing. It is carried on in the productions of the country, consisting of rice, palm oil, ivory,
tortoise shell, dye woods, gold, hides, wax, and a small amount of coffee; and it brings us in return, the products and manufactures of the four quarters of the world. Seldom, indeed, is our harbour clear of European and American shipping; and the bustle and thronging of our streets, show something, already, of the activity of the smaller seaports of the United States.

Mechanics of nearly every trade are carrying on their various occupations—their wages are high, and a large number would be sure of constant and profitable employment.

Not a child, or youth in the Colony, but is provided with an appropriate school. We have a numerous public Library and a Court-House, Meeting-Houses, School-Houses and fortifications sufficient, or nearly so, for the Colony in its present state.

Our houses are constructed of the same materials, and finished in the same style as in the towns of America. We have abundance of good building stone, shells for lime, and clay of an excellent quality for bricks. Timber is plentiful of various kinds, and fit for all the different purposes of building and fencing.

Truly we have a goodly heritage; and if there is any thing lacking in the character or condition of the people of this Colony, it never can be charged to the account of the country: it must be the fruit of our own mismanagement or slothfulness, or vices. But from these evils we confide in Him, to whom we are indebted for all our blessings, to preserve us. It is the topic of our weekly and daily thanksgiving to Almighty God, both in public and in private, and he knows with what sincerity—that we were ever conducted by his providence to this shore. Such great favours in so short a time, and mixed with so few trials, are to be ascribed to nothing but his special blessing. This we acknowledge. We only want the gratitude which such signal favours call for. Nor are we willing to close this paper without adding a heartfelt testimonial of the deep obligations we owe to our American patrons—and best earthly benefactors; whose wisdom pointed us to this home of our nation; and whose active and persevering benevolence enabled us to reach it. Judge, then, of the feelings with which we hear the motives and the doings of the Colonization Society traduced—and that, too, by men too ignorant to know what that Society has accomplished; too weak to look through its plans and intentions; or too dishonest to ac-
knowledge either. But, without pretending to any prophetic sagacity, we can certainly predict to that Society, the ultimate triumph of their hopes and labours; and disappointment and defeat to all who oppose them. Men may theorize, and speculate about their plans in America, but there can be no speculation here. The cheerful abodes of civilization and happiness which are scattered over this verdant mountain—the flourishing settlements which are spreading around it—the sound of Christian instruction, and scenes of Christian worship, which are heard and seen in this land of brooding pagan darkness—a thousand contented freemen united in founding a new Christian Empire, happy themselves, and the instruments of happiness to others: every object, every individual, is an argument, is demonstration, of the wisdom and the goodness of the plan of Colonization.

Where is the argument that shall refute facts like these?—And where is the man hardy enough to deny them?

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Extracts from Correspondence.

From the Secretary of the American Tract Society.

At a meeting of the Committee of the American Tract Society, Nov. 6, 1827, it was unanimously resolved, that the Corresponding Secretary address the Secretary of the American Colonization Society, and inquire whether Tracts are needed at Liberia; and if any, what quantity.

A true copy from the minutes.

W. A. Hallock, Secretary.

From the Secretary of the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, have made a donation of Tracts and a copy of the Christian Advocate & Journal to the African Colony at Liberia. This therefore is to request information from you, sir, of the best method, by which they may be sent, so as to reach their destination. A benevolent gentleman in this city, has likewise authorized an