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NILES' WEEKLY REGISTER.

CONTAINING

POLITICAL, HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, SCIENTIFICAL, ASTRONOMICAL, STATISTICAL, AND BIOGRAPHICAL,

DOCUMENTS, ESSAYS, AND FACTS;

TOGETHER WITH


H. NILES, EDITOR.

Hoc olim meminisse juvabit.—Virgil.

FROM MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, 1817—VOL. XII.
NILES' WEEKLY REGISTER—FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR.

is without seam, woven from the top throughout, let us not rend it.”

To secure the imposed duties, reliance should not be placed upon such exactions, nor should oaths be multiplied: the frequency of them destroys their solemnity, sports with the most sacred obligations, and is unfriendly to religion and morality.

Inspectors, acquainted with the quality of the goods, should be appointed; whose duty it should be to ascertain by actual examination of the goods, the correspondence of the denomination, or value, to the entry; if the inspection is not made, or the penalties be inflicted. Goods of foreign manufacture, passing coastwise, from one port to another, should be accompanied with permits, certifying to the collector of the port at which they are to be landed, by definite descriptions, that entry had been fairly made on them at the port of entry. Severe laws and dispositon and every fraud committed against the revenue laws.

We believe that a duty of ten per cent should be imposed on sales by auction, of all linen, cotton, woolen, and silk goods, and of all those made of metal, with the exception of the estates of bankrupts, insolvent persons deceased, and sheriffs and marshals, and every fraud committed against the revenue laws.

We pray that it may be the practice of the president, and vice president of the United States, and of the members of congress, as well as governors of respective states and their legislatures, with all their civil, military, and naval officers, to wear and use the manufactures of their own country of every description, by which, we think, they will sub- stantially promote its best interests, exhibit their patriotic principles, and exude a just principle of imitation.

And your memorialists further request, in behalf of your mercantile and manufacturing interests, such aid and protection as from time to time may appear necessary; and as may place them beyond the reach of such foreign domination, or similar influence, as intends them injury or aims at their destruction.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Free people of color.

Report on colonizing the free people of color of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEB. 11.

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of the president and board of managers of the "American society for colonizing the free people of color of the United States," have had the same under their deliberate consideration. The subject is of such magnitude, and attended with so many difficulties, it is with much diffidence they present their views of it to the house.

Were it simply a question of founding a colony, numerous and well known precedents show what facility the work might be accomplished. Every new territory established by our government, constitutes, indeed, a colony, formed with great ease, because it is only an extension of homogeneous settlements. But in contemplating the colonization of the free people of color, it seemed obviously necessary to take a different course. Their distinct character and relative condition render an entirely separate formation from other states and territories indispensable. And this separation must be such as to admit of an indefinite continuance. Hence, it seems manifest that these people cannot be colonized within the limits of the United States. If they were not far distant, the rapidly extending settlements of our white inhabitants would soon reach them; and the evil now felt would be renewed; probably with aggravated mischief. Were the colony to be remote, it must be planted on land now occupied and occupied by the native tribes of the country. And could a territory be purchased, the transporting of the colonists thither, would be vastly expensive, their subsistence for a time difficult, and a body of troops would be required for their protection. And after all, should these difficulties be overcome, the original penalities would at length be removed by the extension of our white population. In the mean time, should the colony so increase as to become a nation, it is not difficult to foresee the quarrels and destructive wars which would ensue; especially if the slavery of people of color should continue, and accompany the whites in their migrations.

Turning our eyes from our own country, no other, adapted to the colony in contemplation, presented itself to our view, nearer than Africa, the native land of negroes; and probably that is the only country on the globe to which it would be practicable to transfer our free people of color with safety, and advantage to themselves and the civilized world. It is the country which, in the order of Providence, seems to have been appropriated to that distinct family of mankind. And while it presents the fittest asylum for the free people of color, it opens a wide field for the improvements in civilization, morals and religion, which the humane and enlightened memorialists have conceived it possible, in process of time, to spread over that great continent.

Should the measure suggested be approved, an important question occurs.—In what way shall its execution be essayed?

A preliminary step would be, to provide for the perfect neutrality of the colony, by the explicit consent, and engagement of all the civilized powers, whatever dissensions may at any time arise among themselves.

The next important question is,—Will it be expedient to attempt the establishment of a new colony in Africa, or to make to Great Britain a proposal to receive the emigrants from the United States in the island of Sierra Leone? At Sierra Leone, the first difficulties have been surmounted; and a few free people of color from the United States have been admitted. A gradual addition from the same source (and such would be the natural progress) would occasion no embarrassment, either in regard to their sustenance or government. Would the British government consent to receive such an accession of emigrants, however, eventually considerable, from the United States?—Would that government agree that, at the period when that colony shall be capable of self-government and self-protection, it shall be declared independent? In the mean time, will it desire to monopolize the commerce of the colony? This would be injurious to the colonists, as well as to the United States. Should that country from the nature of its soil and other circumstances, hold out sufficient allurements, and draw to it from the United States, the great body of the free people of color, these would form its strength, and its ability to render its commerce valuable. The interest of so great and permanent benefit of the colonists, was the fundamental principle of the establishment—will the British government decline a proposition calculated to give to that benefit the important extension which will arise from a freedom of com-
merces; to those, at least, at whose expense, and by
whose means, the colony shall be essentially ex-
tended? Should an agreement with Great Britain
be effected, no further negotiation, or any extra-
ordinary expenditure of money, will be required.
The work already commenced will be continued—
simply of carrying to Sierra Leone, all who are will-
ing to embark.

It would seem highly desirable to confine the mi-
grations to a single colony. The two distinct and
independent colonies, established and protected by
two independent powers, would naturally imibe the
spirit and distinctions of their patrons and pro-
tectors, and put in jeopardy the peace and prospé-
rety of both. Even the simple fact of separate in-
dependence, would eventually, tend to produce
 collisions and wars between the two establishments
(unless, indeed, they were far removed from each
other) and perhaps defeat the further humane and
exalted views of those who projected them. The
spirit which animated the founders of the colony
of Sierra Leone, would be exerted to effect a union
of design, and the cordial co-operation of the Bri-
tish government with our own, and it might be
accompanied without success. It would be in ac-
cordance with the spirit of a stipulation in the last
treaty of peace; by which the two governments
stands pledged to each other, to use their best en-
deavors to effect the entire abolition of the traffic
in slaves, while the proposed institution would tend
to diminish the quantity of slavery actually exis-
ting.

If, however, such enlarged and liberal views
should be wanting, then the design of forming a
separate colony might be announced by the Ameri-
can ministers, to the maritime powers; and their
promise of the neutrality of the colony obtain
ed.

Your committee do not think it proper to pursue
the subject any further at this time; but that the
government should wait the result of the suggested
negotiations; on which ulterior measures must de-
pend.

In conclusion, your committee beg leave to re-
port a joint resolution, embracing the views herein
before exhibited.

Resolved, by the senate and house of representa-
tives of the United States of America, in congress assembled,
That the president be, and is hereby authorized to
consult and negotiate with all the governments
where ministers of the United States are, or shall
be accredited, on the means of effecting an entire
and immediate abolition of the traffic in slaves.—
And, also, to enter into a convention with the gov-
ernment of Great-Britain, for receiving into the
colony of Sierra Leone, such of the free people of
color of the United States, as, with their own con-
sent, shall be carried thither; stipulating such
terms as shall be most beneficial to the colonists,
while it promotes the peaceful interests of Great
Britain and the United States. And should this pro-
nosition not be accepted, then to obtain from Great
Britain, and the other maritime powers, a stipula-
tion, or a formal declaration to the same effect,
guaranteeing a permanent neutrality for any colony
of free people of color, which, at the expence and
under the auspices of the United States, shall be
established on the African coast.

Resolved, That adequate provision shall hereafter
be made to defray any necessary expenses which
may be incurred in carrying the preceding resolu-
tion into effect.

Foreign Articles.

ENGLAND, &c.

London, 7th February, inclusive.

The state of things in England appears to have
approached a very alarming crisis. The prince re-
gent, on his way to parliament to open the session
by a speech from the throne, was insulted with the
hoofings and hisses of an immense multitude of
people, and in returning was attacked by another
mob with stones and hand-guns. Mr. Murray, for
deputising purposes, was shot at by a gun. See his examina-
tion before the house of commons. The regent escaped
without injury, but lord Murray was wounded.—
1,000l. reward are offered by proclamation for the
apprehension of the person or persons who were
 guilty of the "attempt upon the life" of the prince,
and it is said that several have been arrested and
committed to trial on a charge of high treason. A bun-
let much battered, so as to be nearly flat, has
been picked up near the place where the regent's
coach was attacked. The person who found it was
examined by lord Sidmouth.

After the king was attacked in his coach in 1785,
we much in the same manner, that the present re-
gent has been attacked, unless the war with France was suspended.
the power of the ministers exceedingly in-
creased—and advantage was taken of the circum-
stance to alarm the people with ten thousand tales
of "rubes" and conspiracies, whereby they were
warmed into loyalty and forgot their then sufferings
in anticipating greater evils. On that occasion one
man was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment
for having "made mouths" at the royal carriage!

But the regent's message to parliament of the
29th of January, inserted below, is of more import-
ance than the attack upon his person, if the often-
repeated declarations of the ministers may be be-
lieved, that that message had no connection with
reference to the attack. It goes on to show the pre-
valeuce of a revolutionary spirit to a much greater
extent than we apprehended to exist in that coun-
try, and evinces to us that the government is ex-
cceedingly alarmed—unless, indeed, the whole busi-
ness, even the mob-scene itself, has been got up
by the ministers themselves to coax the people out of
their just indignation.

The apprehensions of a scarcity of grain has sub-
sided. The supplies from the continent have been
very extensive. Fine old wheat, however, was at
6s. to 6½s. 10½ per quarter. Average for England
and Wales 10s. 11d.

Stock—Feb. 4. cons. 64 a 64½.

Lord Castlebay.—The old Tory packet, (says a
Dublin paper) in a recent passage from this port
to Newry, had on board a fine Arabian horse, be-
longing to his lordship, which some of our read-
ers might lately have seen in this port. A most violent
storm arose; and it was with difficulty that the cap-
tain and crew prevented the passengers from throw-
 ing the poor animal overboard. They persisted in
attributing their danger to having any thing belong-
ing to that popular nobleman on board.

It is stated that Castlebay's care of the people of
England has enabled her father to pay off an old
debt of 35,000l. and to purchase new estates which
cost him 250,000l.—together equal to £1,332,000.

A man ought to be content for his fate. Some of the Brit-
ish troops will be immediately drawn from France for "home service"—25 trans-
ports have been taken up for the purpose.

Canning's impudence in talking about the whole-
some plans of the ministers, &c. was handsomely
rebuked by sir Robert Heron, who said, "that he
(Canning) himself was one of the most flagrant and