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mercials would be protected from vexatious detentions and seizures by other cruisers, as no hope would exist of illegal condemnation while our own country should be represented in the court of adjudication, and all the difficulties would be obviated which have arisen from misapprehension of our position, and from a jealousy on the part of the officers of the British squadron that we were disposed to thwart their efforts—treaties of commerce would be made with the native chiefs without opposition, and a fulfilment of their conditions enforced—in fact we should obtain a permanent footing on that coast of which we could not hereafter be dispossessed, when the commerce of Africa shall assume an importance unsurpassed by that of any other section of the tropical world.

LATE DESPATCHES FROM LIBERIA.

We are happy to submit to our readers the following recent letters from the colony. The prevailing order, harmony, and general prosperity give evidence of the prudence and energy of the administration of the government, and that the hopes cherished of the growing influence of the colonial settlements of Liberia, are not to be disappointed. It is in the power of the American people to accomplish a work for Africa, through the agency of her descendants, as great and worthy as was ever effected by human ability, and we call upon all our fellow citizens, and especially upon those who bear the blessed name of Christ to co-operate in the enterprise.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONROVIA, April 15th, 1842.

Gentlemen: The Schooner "Herald," of Boston, from the leeward anchored in our harbor last evening, and will sail for the United States in a few hours. Though engaged with the Legislative council, now in session, which requires most of my attention—still I am not willing to miss the opportunity of sending a line or two, to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 11th, 14th and 31st December.

Allow me, in the first place, to return my acknowledgment for the honor you have conferred on me by the appointment of Governor of this Commonwealth. It shall be my constant aim to continue to merit the good opinion you have of my poor abilities. You may be assured I shall exert every power within me to meet your expectations, and to carry out the great principles of the great and good man who has preceded me. How far I may succeed in this, time must determine. Few men there are who have the qualifications that characterized Governor Buchanan—I am sure I have not. Nor should you expect so much from me. But this I pledge myself—that so long as I am trusted with the affairs of the Society in the Colony, and the Government of the Commonwealth—I will do the best I can.

Your suggestion not to draw on the Society if possible to avoid it, shall be observed.

The bills of the Society continue at their par value, and of course a great convenience to the community—but their circulation has been limited for the want of sufficient to-back them. The Legislature at this session have made them redeemable with specie, camwood, or ivory which will remove the embarrassment, and a sufficient circulation can now be made.
The resolutions passed by the Executive Committee, December 14th, have been published in the Herald and Luminary.

I feel most sensibly your remarks under date 14th December, that, "Many principles of vital importance to the cause of Colonization, to the cause of Liberia, and to the cause of Africa, are trusted to my administration, and I am also apprised of the immense responsibility which attaches to each of my public acts.

I shall endeavor to be on my guard, and use every effort in my power to avoid the evils you have mentioned, and see if it is not possible to establish the fact, that colored men (if placed in a situation to exercise it,) can conduct themselves with as much probity as people of a different caste.

The Legislature commenced its session on the 5th, and will probably close to-morrow.

No material alteration has been made by the council in the laws, or the system of Government.

The general health of the people is good, the emigrants by the Saluda have passed through the fever, and are all doing well, seem to enjoy as good health as old colonists; not a single death has occurred among the emigrants by the Groning or Union, since my last communication by the latter vessel in December.

We have been anxiously looking for the vessel from New Orleans with emigrants for Sinou.

Since my last letter to the Board I have visited all the leeward settlements. I found Greenville in rather a dangerous situation. The day preceding my arrival, three Africans had been arrested for the murder of one and the dangerously wounding another American. These colonists had engaged to work for Mr. Canfield, missionary, at Kroo country and were on their way thither when they were overtaken by four native men (Fishmen, natives of Nefue, some fifty or sixty miles to leeward and of a very powerful tribe.) These Fishmen were residing, it seems, in a small town near "Blue Barre," through which the Americans had to pass with their tools &c., &c. These men seeing their plunder determined to rob them. For this purpose they followed the Americans some five or six miles on the beach, and then demanded the articles they had; which demand not being immediately complied with, one of the robbers leveled his musket and fired, bringing one man to the ground; the other American attempted to make his escape by flight, when another discharge from the second musket brought him down. Having received the slug in the shoulder, he soon recovered and continued his flight in the woods; the natives thinking he would, if not mortally wounded, return to the beach, pursued their way, expecting to intercept him; in this they were foiled. The man continued his way in the woods, and reached home the second day. The natives finding he did not return to the beach, concluded he had died in the woods, and after robbing the dead man, returned to their homes.

The following morning after getting a description of the murderers from the wounded man, several of the citizens of Greenville, visited the town in which these men were supposed to live, and recognized two of the murderers; after considerable difficulty, the Sinou natives compelled the Fish people to give them up to the Americans. The next morning, just as they were about to dispatch a messenger for me, I arrived and found the settle-
ment in rather an unsafe condition. Much anxiety was manifested on the part of the citizens; the natives of Sinou as well as their own people were opposed to their being executed, but wished that their country people might be permitted to pay a stipulated amount. To this I was very loth to agree, but finding that the whole country was determined to resist any such measure, and in consequence the settlement would be very much exposed, and in all probability, (being in such a defenseless condition, and so remote from other settlements,) be destroyed. I consented to stipulate, that should the sum of one thousand dollars be paid to the authorities at Sinou, within twelve calendar months, the prisoners should be discharged, if not paid within that time, they are to abide the penalty of the law, at the discretion of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia.

Notwithstanding such offenders should receive the sentence of the law, in this matter I think we shall gain much. The probability is, they will not be able to pay the amount within the time specified. If not, we shall be able to remove from the vicinity of Greenville, a population of about one thousand persons—all Fishmen, who have been, and continue to be, not only an annoyance to the colonists—but to the Sinou natives. I should like to say more on the subject, but time will not allow.

I am happy to inform you that Dr. Johnson will commence to occupy the house on Factory Island designed for the high school next week. This building has rather exceeded the amount appropriated for its erection. This could not be avoided, owing to the unfitness of the ground on which it was placed. The wall, after getting two-thirds up, tumbled down the second time. It is now, however, a substantial and permanent building. The account I cannot send by this vessel.

The remaining furniture I found at the Government House, Bassa Cove, I have removed to Monrovia. It was in a miserable condition, and most of it totally ruined. The part that may not be wanted for the use of the house, I shall dispose of.

The Government House at Bassa Cove is in a most dilapidated condition, the roof is fast decaying, and will not stand another rainy season without repairs—and unless thoroughly repaired next dry season, will be worth but little. I would advise, that the house be sold, (as soon as possible, as the Society at present can have no use for it) and the land leased for a term of years; the location is a beautiful one, and one I think the Society ought not to part with. It might be sold perhaps to some one of the Missionary Societies to advantage.

The Light House on Cape Messurado will be completed in eight or ten days. A stone building for a Court House and Council room is now being erected in Monrovia—it is to be 56 feet long, 34 feet wide, and two stories high. This we expect to have completed in about three months. We need very much a Public Jail, but at present our limited means will not allow us to commence the building of one.

The Council have passed a resolution at this session, requesting the Society either to give or lend them five or six thousand dollars to assist in carrying out the operations of Public improvement.

The Schooner Regulus is doing but little at present owing to the scarcity of goods, and the continued illness of Capt. Preston. He is now down with fever, nor do I believe he has seen a well day since August last. The
mater has had the principal management of the vessel, and he is not the
man for this trade. She is to leave for Sinou, &c., &c., (touching at sev-
eral intermediate places) early next week. The Captain is anxious to take
her home, and but for the necessity of sending supplies to Sinou, (especial-
ly arms and ammunition) I should send her immediately to the United
States. On her return from this trip—if no vessel from the Society with
a supply of goods, or contrary orders should arrive—I shall load her with
camwood and palm oil, and despatch her to America. You will of course
insure accordingly.

We have succeeded this year in making between two and three thousand
pounds of good sugar (brown) at the Col. farm—(shall send you one or
two blls. by the Schooner.) Could have made considerably more, but
took the advice of Mr. Jenks, (who superintended the making) and left
about two-thirds of the field for seed the next season.

The fact is now fully established that sugar cane can be cultivated in Li-
beria to advantage—the farmers generally have taken new courage, and are
determined to exert all the powers within them, to be in some degree inde-
pendent.

Our commerce is also increasing. The past season has been one of un-
exampled success to our merchants. There has been more produce brought
into the Colony during the last year, than for the same period, within the
past four or five years.

There are now on the stocks in the different settlements, three small
coasters; the fourth, called the "Pedler," owned by Messrs. Payne and
Yates of this place.

We have had no material difficulty with any of those British traders
since my last communication.

From the suggestion of the Board we have determined not to meddle
in any way with these men—if it can be possibly avoided. To this end,
the Legislature at this session, have passed a resolution, requesting that
this subject (through the American Colonization Society) be laid before
Her Majesty's government—feeling that could the matter be fairly repre-
sented to them, the British government would rid us of this interference
by her traders. Two letters passed between L. Sheridan, Esq. and Lieut.
Seagram on the subject of Murray's establishing himself at the Cove. Copies
of which I will send by the Regulus.

As this vessel goes to Boston, and the Regulus in all probability will sail
five or six weeks from this date for America, I shall not forward at pre-
sent the accounts from the store for the quarter ending 31st December,
which are made up and ready, but are of some bulk. At that time Gov.
Buchanan's Journal will be forwarded.

I find it impossible to send or say more about the proceedings in Coun-
il. Suffice it to say, they have made no material alteration. Every thing
in the Colony is quiet, and I believe prosperous.

We shall send by the Schooner a cargo of some five or six thousand
dollars; more if she can take it.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. ROBERTS.
REV. AND DEAR SIR: Your esteemed communication per the “Grecian” came safe to hand, and was read with interest.

Allow me, Dear Sir, to thank you for the kindness which you show me by that communication. It shall be my aim to act in such a manner as to give you and the Board confidence in the declaration I make of being devoted to the interest of the Society, and the welfare of the Colony.

The Council has just closed its session. It is to be regretted that we have no time to send you a copy of its proceedings—as the vessel will remain here but a short time. Otherwise, you would be put in possession of all the facts, together with this quarter’s account.

In fact, there are many points on which the Board might be informed; but the circumstance of our time being so circumscribed, must plead our excuse, if there appear any seeming neglect of duty.

No pains will be spared to make the despatches from the Government House as full as possible. In them some reference will be made to the acts of the Council.

The resolution, to borrow $6500 to assist in the erection of some Public Buildings, I hope will meet with some encouragement from the Board.

If the Board show a disposition to assist the Colonists in carrying out the plans meditated, it will give spirit and energy to our doings, and go a great way in destroying that hostility which occasionally rises in the breasts of many, to the Society.

We are looking anxiously for the New Orleans expedition; certainly it must be here in a few days.

The Rev. Mr. Chase is here, and has taken charge of the missionary affairs: from what I can understand, things in that quarter will hereafter go on well. He is said to be free from prejudice.

The Colony enjoys peace and tranquility; the rainy season may be considered as having commenced.

We have commenced a Court House; it is far on the way, and when finished will be a fine building.

The Light House, in a week’s time will, I think, be completed—and then by some means we must have a Jail, which is much wanted.

The appointment of one of the citizens to the Governorship of the commonwealth, we highly appreciate—rest assured, that we will try to prove to the world, that we are not entirely destitute of the common principles of self government.

We still think of trying to make you a respectable shipment when an opportunity offers. In the mean time, let me recommend to you, the importance of sending regular supplies, if you wish your commercial operations to be carried on profitably.

As soon as the rainy season has partially gone over, trade will be brisk, but unless the store be supplied, we will not be able to reap any advantage therefrom.

Upwards of 2,000 lbs. of beautiful sugar have been made at the farm this season—it is to be lamented, that the Society do not think it advisable to arrange with Mr. Jenks to carry on the manufacture of that article.
I shall feel proud at all times, to be honored with letters from you—and shall always consider it my duty, as long as I remain an officer of the Society to write you fully and as often as circumstances will allow.

In haste, I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. N. SERVIS.

REV. WILLIAM McILAIN.

DEPARTURE OF THE MARIPOSA.

On the 7th of July, this fine ship sailed from Norfolk with an intelligent and select company of emigrants, assembled from the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and the Territory of Iowa. Seventy-nine of these were servants of John McDonogh, Esq. of New Orleans, a gentleman who has for several years been a generous benefactor of the American Colonization Society, and earnestly engaged in preparing these persons for freedom, and who now sends them to Africa, supplied with the means of commencing their new life with prospects of success. Some of them are skilful mechanics, others well acquainted with the culture of the sugar cane, and the whole process of sugar-making; all have been trained to habits of industry, economy and sobriety; many of them are members of the Christian church, and one or two preachers of the Gospel. They are expected to establish themselves under the superintendence of Dr. James Brown, on an eligible tract of land, called Blue Barre, (opposite the village of Greenville, at Sinou,) which is to bear the name of Louisiana in Liberia.

It is probable that several families not far from New Orleans, will, upon reflection, conclude to accompany those liberated by Mr. McDonogh to the banks of the Sinou, as the country of Blue Barre is recommended for the fertility of the soil, and for many other advantages.

Eighty of these people are from the State of Tennessee, more than twenty of them emancipated by generous masters, and assisted to some extent in the great work they have undertaken—and most of them well qualified from their knowledge of agriculture and the mechanic arts to open their way, and subdue the difficulties ever attendant on the Colonization of new countries.

Seventeen are from the State of Virginia, all, with one exception, receiving freedom at the hand or by the will of their late owners.

Fourteen (one having been added to their number after their arrival in Norfolk,) were liberated by the will of the late Thos. Blackledge, Esq. of South Carolina, who made provision, not merely to aid their removal to Liberia, but placed in their hands eight hundred dollars to enable them to commence a residence there, with the best prospects of happiness.