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

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1834.
"A VINDICATION OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, AND THE COLONY OF LIBERIA."

This is the title of an article, extracted from the "Herald of Peace," a leading English periodical, and from the pen of Mr. J. Bevans, the accomplished Editor of that Journal. The publication was caused by an attack of Mr. C. Stuart on the Colonization Society, in which an account, previously given in the Herald of Peace of the Liberian Colony, had been impugned. Mr. B. introduces his reply with a comprehensive view of the history and present condition of slavery in the U. States, in the course of which he exhibits the following parallel between the proceedings of the U. States and those of Great Britain, concerning the slave-trade and slavery:

"Both countries have abolished the slave trade, and have denounced the prosecution of it as piracy or felony. In America, of twenty-one slave states, nine have abolished slavery, and three of the new states, from their first formation, prohibited the introduction of slavery. Great Britain has seven crown, and thirteen chartered slave colonies. The executive branch of our legislature has power to abolish slavery in the crown colonies, without the intervention of the other two branches of the legislature; and the British legislature has power, by legal enactment, to abolish slavery in the thirteen chartered colonies. It is well known that the answer to the question, What has been done by our own government, or by the colonial legislatures, towards the abolition of slavery? would be, NOTHING. It is true that the same answer must be given, if the same question were put, with respect to the American general government; but then that government is powerless: it cannot abolish slavery by any legislative act; but the local legislatures of the states, which assimilate with our local legislatures, had the power, and several of them have exercised it, by abolishing slavery. On the subject of slavery, America has, therefore, done more than Great Britain, notwithstanding her Congress had not, like our Parliament, any power to enforce such a measure upon them."

This just, and as coming from a foreigner, this generous defence of the American character, exhibits a pleasing contrast to the libels uttered against it on the same shore, by an American "citizen!"

Mr. B. then gives some interesting details of the "exertions of the benevolent and humane in each country" on the subject of slavery, and particularly of the origin and progress of the American Colonization Society. He next analyses, with a masterly pen, the attacks of Mr. Stuart on this Institution; and refers to the reports of the Board of Managers as indicating the true purposes of the Society, to the speeches at the seventh annual meeting of Mr. Harper and Mr. Mercer, and to their difference of opinion on a particular question, but concurrence as to those purposes. Mr. B. examines and refutes the argument attempted by Mr. Stuart on Mr. Clay's speech delivered to the Colonization Society of Kentucky; cites the speech of Mr. William Ladd, of Minot, in the State of Maine, delivered at Exeter, N. H., July 4, 1826, and Mr. Jefferson's opinions; deduces, from various particulars, the fact that approbation of the Colonization Society, is the predominant sentiment on that subject, in the U. States; notices Mr. Stuart's perversion of a passage in a speech of Mr. Key, with the pregnant remark, that "there is more tact than honesty in this manner of giving quotations;" and compares his representations concerning the Colony with ascertained facts.

It is by no means surprising that Mr. Stuart should denounce the American Colonization Society "ministers of hell and children of the devil." The fury of these epithets is well consorted with the folly of making misquotations, which the slightest inspection shows to be fraudulent. But it is somewhat curious that with every wish to see the Society destroyed, and with palpable indifference as to the means which he contributes towards that end, Mr. Stuart should vouchsafe the following admissions:

"First.—For Africa it is good. It interrupts the African slave trade within its own limits; and the least interruption to that nefarious traffic is an unspeakable good.

* "We have been credibly informed," says the Editor of the Herald of Peace, "that at a public meeting of a philanthropic institution which was held at Peckham, and at which was Mr. Cresson, the representative of the American Colonization Society, Mr. Stuart, speaking of that society, said, "they were ministers of hell and children of the devil."
"Second.—For the few coloured people who prefer leaving their native country and emigrating to Africa, it is unquestionably a great blessing.

"Third.—To the slaves, whose slavery it has been; or may be, the means of commuting into transportation, it is a blessing, just in as far as transportation is a lesser evil than slavery; and this is by no means a trivial good.

"Fourth.—But its highest praise, and a praise which the writer cordially yields to it, is the fact, that it forms a new centre; whence, as from our Sierra Leone, and the Cape of Good Hope, civilization and Christianity are radiating through the adjoining darkness. In this respect, no praise can equal the worth of these settlements."

We subjoin Mr. B.'s remarks on the last of these concessions, as exhibiting, by the light of example, a decisive distinction between the colonizing system and the only other scheme, marked with results, which has hitherto been devised for the benefit of the African race:

"On the fourth position, we scarcely know what to say: Mr. Stuart's comparison of the colony of Liberia with that of the Cape of Good Hope, where there are 35,500 slaves, is so severe a satire upon the eulogy he conveys, through the comparison, upon Liberia, that we would dispense with his praise, rather than receive it through so polluted a channel. And a comparison of it with the colony of Sierra Leone is but faint praise: it as much exceeds the latter, as the latter does that of the Cape of Good Hope. Its highest praise is wherein it differs from both those colonies—for though Sierra Leone is not contaminated by the oppressive and degrading system of slavery, and is really productive of great benefit to Africa, the mixture of a white and black population keeps up that distinction of colour (if we are not misinformed) which tends not only to a civil, but to a moral degradation of the people of colour. On the other hand, the colony of Liberia consisting wholly of people of colour, including the government itself, with the exception of the principal agent or governor, no invidious distinctions are kept up: each man feels that he is equal to his fellow, that there is no other distinction but what is produced by superior talents and moral qualities. The man of colour is governed by his own laws, administered by his own people."

Judicious as are Mr. B.'s observations on Mr. Stuart's concessions, we are not sure that the Editor of the Phrenological Journal, in the article with which we have already made our readers acquainted, did not say all the subject deserved, when he said, "After this declaration in favor of all that he had denounced, we should think we ought to hear no more of Mr. Stuart." p. 14.

The following extract from Mr. Bevans' article, though the arithmetic of the case is not stated so favorably for the Society, as the present state of things would warrant, is a conclusive answer to the objection founded on the alleged inadequacy of the means possessed by the Society to its object:

"Mr. Stuart endeavours to expose the inability of the American Colonization Society to carry into effect the object they profess to have in view. He says, that the Society has been established thirteen years; that the total number transported in that period is 2,000; which, he says, makes the number transported yearly, 150. Now it was rather more than eight years, when Mr. Stuart wrote, since the establishment of the colony of Liberia; say eight and a half years, and the real annual average of the number of emigrants will be 236. We advert to this false calculation, not because we would lay any stress upon calculations of this kind in the infancy of a colony like that of Liberia, but to expose the fallacies Mr. Stuart would impose upon us as demonstrable truths. We will dismiss this printed document when we have asked one question. Is it not better that 1,500 or 2,000 slaves should be liberated and restored to their proper rank in society in the land of their forefathers, and annihilated, in Africa, a trade of 10,000 slaves annually, than to sit with our arms folded and do nothing, because we cannot immediately emancipate the whole slave population in America?"

THE REV. WILLIAM M. ATKINSON.

The Philadelphia Presbyterian of October 23rd, contains an eloquent letter from Mr. Atkinson, under date of April 24th, on the subject of Bible Societies. The writer thus alludes to the Colonization Society:—

"I give you the strongest pledge that I can ask from the heart, when I tell you, that (clearly as I love the Colonization Society, and strongly as you know I have been urged to devote myself to its service) I have yet been constrained to decline that delightful office, and accept the agency for the Virginia bible Society. I do this not so much for the mere purpose of raising the $20,000, as in the hope of aiding in exciting a missionary spirit in Virginia, and in the hope, that a disposition on our part to move with our whole hearts in this enterprise, may be communicated to the whole American Bible Society, and lead to the adoption of your resolution and the redemption of the proposed pledge."