

**REPORTS OF THE BOARD
OF MANAGERS OF
THE PENNSYLVANIA
COLONIZATION SOCIETY**

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Reports of the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society by Various

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VARIOUS

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THE PENNSYLVANIA
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REPORTS

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

Pennsylvania Colonization Society,

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION AND APPENDIX.

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INTRODUCTION.

SLAVERY, and its inconsistency with the dictates of Christianity, have long been freely acknowledged and deeply lamented by the people of the United States,—and its removal, the great problem which has occupied the attention of her best and wisest men.

So far back as 1698, the Assembly of Pennsylvania, to put an end to the introduction of slaves, laid a duty of £10 per head, upon their importation; but this benevolent law, together with about *fifty* of similar tenor, which were passed by the neighbouring colonies up to the period of their Revolution, were all refused the sanction of the mother country. The introduction of slaves was one of the great causes of complaint, which led to their Declaration of Independence dated, July 4th, 1776.

Scarcely had that struggle ceased, when a colony on the coast of Africa, similar to that of Liberia, was proposed, but the prosecution of the Slave Trade, by every civilized Power, defeated these benevolent views. In 1796, the plan was again revived in a series of luminous Essays by Gerard T. Hopkins, a distinguished friend in Baltimore; and shortly afterwards the legislature of Virginia, a State containing nearly one-third of the black population of the Union, pledged its faith to give up all their slaves, provided the United States could obtain a proper asylum for them. President Jefferson negotiated in vain for a territory either in Africa or Brazil; but that great State again renewed its pledge in 1816, by a vote of 190 to 9, (most of the members being slave-holders,) upon which, Gen. C. F. Mercer, the Wilberforce of the American Congress,

opened a correspondence with the philanthropists of the different States, which led to the formation of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, on the 1st of January, 1817.

The great objects of that Society, were—the final and entire abolition of slavery, providing for the best interests of the blacks, by establishing them in independence upon the coast of Africa; thus constituting them the protectors of the unfortunate natives against the inhuman ravages of the slaver, and seeking, through them, to spread the lights of civilization and Christianity among the *fifty millions* who inhabit those dark regions. To meet the views of all parties, they had a most difficult path to tread; but as all legislation on the subject of slavery was *specially reserved to the respective States by the Articles of Confederation, and had become the basis of the Constitution of the United States*, they very wisely, instead of denouncing an evil which they had not the power to overthrow, had recourse to the more sure, but gradual mode of removing it, by enlightening the consciences, and convincing the judgments, of the slave-holders. Their theory is justified by experience; for while our little colony has grown quite as fast as could be wished for by its most judicious friends, these principles have been silently gaining ground in the slave States, yet so rapidly, that the number of slaves offered gratuitously by benevolent owners, exceed ten-fold the present means of the Society to receive and convey them to Africa. The disposition of Virginia has been already shewn. Delaware and Kentucky have also proved their anxiety to concur in so noble a cause; and Dr. Ayres, the earliest Governor of Liberia, now a resident of Maryland, asserts, “that owing to the plans and principles of colonization being better understood, in less than twenty years there will be no more slaves born in that State.”

A party in South Carolina is now almost the only opponent that the Society has at home; and, as if to afford the most incontestable evidence that its plan will destroy the institution of slavery in the United States, they ground their opposition upon the *inevitable tendency* of colonization to *eradicate slave-holding*, and thereby deprive them of their *property*.

But if the present means of the Society are inadequate to effect its purposes, it will be recollected that only eight years have elapsed since Cape Messurado, then a mart for the sale of 10,000 fellow-creatures annually, was purchased from the natives; that unhallowed traffic has been entirely destroyed; a flourishing colony of 2,000 emancipated slaves has been founded; churches, schools, commerce, and even a newspaper established, and the confidence of the Aborigines so completely won, that 10,000 of them are, as allies of this new republic, participating in the blessings of civilization and religion.

The feelings of these happy people are best described in their circular to the people of colour of the United States. Knowing that in the infancy of the Society some had impugned its motives, and others doubted its success, they pointedly observe—“*Judge, then, of the feelings with which we hear the motives and doings of the Colonization Society traduced—and that, too, by men too ignorant to know what the Society had accomplished—too weak to look through its plans and intentions—or too dishonest to acknowledge either.*” All their letters unite in grateful thanks for the great blessings conferred upon them; and even greater are either realizing, or in prospect, for the savage tribes around.—All this has been effected for the small sum of 27,000*l.*; and its friends, at first but few, have so increased, in number and confidence, that one-third of their total receipts accrued during the last year—several religious bodies have given it their earnest and unanimous support—thirteen of the States have recommended it to the patronage of Congress; and on the elevation of its champion, the Hon. Henry Clay, to the Presidency, there cannot be a doubt that funds adequate to the fulfilment of this glorious design will be granted by the general government.

If the very dregs of the human race (the slavers) can drag annually from Africa 100,000 unfortunate wretches, will it be doubted that the energies of a free people can restore half as many of her descendants, when prompted alike by duty and interest?—this, in a few years, would effect a cure of the evil;—the sum required is too small to be an obstacle. It has been shewn in Parliament that during the last 24 years about 8,000,000*l.* has been spent upon

Sierra Leone. That sum, divided into thirty instalments, would, in as many years, settle our whole coloured population in the land of their ancestors. Nor can it fail to give the Society increased confidence in the soundness of their own system, when they find that ministers have announced their intention of regulating the African Colonies of England upon the same plan, and elevating the black man, by conferring upon his race the principal offices of the different posts. Neither has our scheme been unsanctioned by the approval of some of the best men of Britain.—Richard Dykes Alexander, a name ever prominent in deeds of practical philanthropy, “convinced that a more rapid progress was never known in any colony towards comfort and respectability than that of Liberia,” published an appeal in its behalf; in consequence of which, the following sums were sent to Barnetts, Hoare, and Co., 62, Lombard-street, who continue to act as Bankers to the Fund—viz.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Robert Barclay (Bury Hill)	100	0	0	Judith N. Dillwyn.....	10	0	0
A Female Friend (per S. T., of York, who is only rich by the fewness of her own wants, and the cheerfulness with which she ministers to those of others	100	0	0	Joseph Gurney (Norwich) ...	10	0	0
A Female Friend	100	0	0	Joseph John Gurney (ditto)...	10	0	0
London Female Anti-Slavery Society.....	50	0	0	Collected by John Fisher (Hud- dersfield).....	10	0	0
A Friend (in Warwickshire)...	50	0	0	Col. Perronet Thompson	10	0	0
Collected by Mary I. Lecky, (Kilnoek, Ireland).....	51	0	0	Robert Graham (Glasgow) ...	9	15	0
Hannah Murray (York)	25	0	0	Collected by K. Bell (Plainstow)	9	0	0
Nathan Dunn.....	25	0	0	Benjamin Hawes, jun.	7	10	0
Collected by Wm. Smith (Don- caster).....	20	5	0	Thomas Hodgkin, M.D.	7	10	0
Luke Howard and Family.....	20	0	0	Norwich Female Anti-Slavery Society.....	6	15	0
A Friend, per ditto	0	5	0	Thomas Catchpole (Colchester)	6	15	0
Sarah Fox and Family (Wal- lington)	15	0	0	Lucey Maw (Needham).....	6	10	0
Wyett Geo. Gibson (Saffron Walden)	13	10	0	Sarah Strangman (Ireland) ...	6	5	0
Jabez Gibson (ditto).....	13	10	0	Collected by A. Cowell (Wal- ton)	6	0	0
Francis Gibson (ditto).....	13	10	0	Sarah Abbott	6	0	0
Mary Gibson (ditto).....	13	10	0	Cash, per Leatham's	6	0	0
Gerard Ralston	10	10	0	Mary Wright (Bristol).....	2	0	0
				Louisa Wright (ditto)	2	0	0
				Martha Jessup (Woodbridge)	2	0	0
				Widow's Mite (from Chelms- ford).....	1	0	0
				Charlotte Smith.....	1	0	0
				Mary Harford.....	1	0	0

Each 7l. 10s. of which not only secures the freedom of a slave and pays his passage to Africa, but constitutes him a freeholder of thirty acres of fertile land.

Hence, the undersigned, as Representative of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY, feels himself justified in drawing the same conclusion, which, he believes, the wise and good of all sects and all parties in the United States have arrived at—that it is the happy means, destined by a kind Providence, for securing to Africa the fulfilment of the glorious promises in her behalf—by effecting, in the mode most consistent with their interest and happiness, the freedom of her coloured population—*et pari passu*, destroying that inhuman traffic which has so long been the affliction of Africa, the disgrace of Europe, and the scourge of America.

ELLIOTT CRESSON.

No. 19, Adam Street, Adelphi.
7 mo. 20th, 1831.

N.B.—The following interesting Letter from Governor Mechlin, being the latest intelligence from the colony, is appended, as affording the best picture of its present situation.

“ TO ELLIOTT CRESSON, Esq.

“ LIBERIA, Feb. 21, 1831.

“ MY DEAR SIR,—The prospects of the Colony were never brighter than at present; the improvements in commerce, agriculture, buildings, &c., during my short visit to the United States, have been astonishingly great, and far exceeded my most sanguine expectations. In Monrovia alone, upwards of twenty-five substantial stone and frame dwelling-houses have been erected within the short space of five months, and many others are in progress; and should nothing intervene to interrupt our present advancement, our little town will, ere long, be one of the most desirable places of resort on the western coast of Africa. I have been informed by a Captain recently from the leeward, that there is, at present, much more business done at this place, than at any of the old European settlements on the Gold Coast. That our commerce has greatly increased, will be rendered evident by comparing the marine list contained in the *Herald* of the present month, with that of any of the preceding.

“ Our agricultural interests, I am credibly informed, (for my health and multiplied duties have not permitted me to examine for myself,) have advanced ‘*pari*