

**LETTERS TO THE HON. WILLIAM  
JAY, BEING A REPLY TO HIS  
"INQUIRY INTO THE AMERICAN  
COLONIZATION AND AMERICAN  
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETIES"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649532506

Letters to the Hon. William Jay, Being a Reply to His "Inquiry into the American Colonization and American Anti-Slavery Societies" by David M. Reese

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**DAVID M. REESE**

**LETTERS TO THE HON. WILLIAM  
JAY, BEING A REPLY TO HIS  
"INQUIRY INTO THE AMERICAN  
COLONIZATION AND AMERICAN  
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETIES"**



LETTERS  
TO THE  
HON. WILLIAM JAY,  
BEING  
A REPLY TO HIS "INQUIRY  
INTO THE  
AMERICAN COLONIZATION  
AND  
AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETIES."

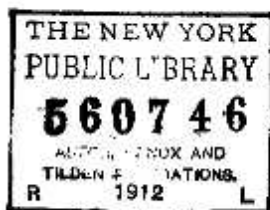
---

BY DAVID M. REESE, M. D.  
OF NEW-YORK.

---

New-York:  
PUBLISHED BY LEAVITT, LORD & Co.  
150 BROADWAY.  
BOSTON:—CROCKER & BREWSTER

1835.



---

[Entered according to Act of Congress, by DAVID M. RAZAN, M. D. in the clerk's  
office of the District Court of the Southern District of New-York.]

---

---

Typeset by Conner & Gault.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

---

*From the Rev. John Breckinridge, President of the Young Men's Colonization Society of Pennsylvania.*

New-York, May 13, 1835.

I have examined with much interest and satisfaction, the proof sheets of the chief parts (the whole being not quite complete) of Dr. Reese's "Letters to the Hon. Wm. Jay," in reply to his late work against the American Colonization Society.

Dr. Reese has largely merited the thanks of the American people, for the prompt and satisfactory manner in which he has refuted and exposed a work, which, upon a momentous and agitating question, and under an imposing name, has said more *disingenuous, sophistical*, and yet *dangerous* things, than I had supposed it possible to be uttered in so small a compass, by so honest, so good, and so sensible a man.

JOHN BRECKINRIDGE.

---

*From the Rev. Drs. Milnor, Brownlee, and De Witt.*

DEAR SIR,—Having been favoured with the opportunity of reading the proof sheets of a large portion of your answer to the recent publication of the Hon. William Jay, assailing the principles and proceedings of the American Colonization Society, we beg leave to express our approbation of the views which you have presented; and to add, that, in our opinion, you have very successfully defended the Institution against the charges in the book referred to, exposed the mistakes and errors of its worthy author, and presented arguments and facts, as we conceive, abundantly sufficient to satisfy every impartial mind of the preference which should be given to the practical operations now in successful prosecution by the friends of colonization, for the relief of a distressed class of our fellow men, over the *fruitless, impracticable, and dangerous theories*, of the advocates of immediate abolition.

We cheerfully commend your work to the public, and trust its general perusal will have a happy effect in removing unfavourable im-

pressions, and in increasing the interest which has recently been so signally manifested in the cause of colonization.

As citizens desiring the continuance and perpetuity of the peace, security, and happy union of our beloved country; as philanthropists anxious to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of the people of colour, both bond and free; as Christians willing to pray and labour for the extension of the blessings of civilization and religion to benighted Africa; we do earnestly hope, that a cause, so blessed already by a benignant Providence, will continue to grow in the favour of this enlightened community, and its active advocates and supporters be furnished by its liberality with the means of accomplishing their benevolent and noble object.

We remain your Christian friends and coadjutors,

JAMES MILNOR, D. D.  
WM. C. BROWNLEE, D. D.  
THOS. DE WITT, D. D.

Dr. DAVID M. REESE.

*New-York, May 18, 1835.*

---

*From the Rev. N. Bangs, Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.*

I have examined the Letters of Dr. D. M. Reese, addressed to the Hon. William Jay, in defence of the American Colonization Society, and in opposition to the Anti-Slavery Society, and believe them an ample and able refutation of the errors of the latter, as exhibited in Mr. Jay's unfortunate book, and a triumphant as well as timely vindication of the principles and proceedings of the American Colonization Society; and therefore most heartily and cordially recommend these Letters to the careful perusal and serious consideration of the American public.

NATHAN BANGS, D. D.

*New-York, May 18, 1835.*



## P R E F A C E .

---

On the appearance of the "Inquiry" of the Hon. Mr. Jay, into the American Colonization and American Anti-Slavery Societies, I eagerly procured a copy, and read it throughout with mingled emotions of pain and pleasure. I was pained that so worthy a man should exhibit such evidence of ignorance of the subject on which he undertakes to enlighten the public; and still more, that such a man should descend from the dignity of his profession and character, to assail and satirize many of the ablest and best men of this nation, and that noblest enterprise of human benevolence, to which the American Colonization Society is consecrated; and this too on such questionable authorities, as those on which alone, he seems to have been dependent for his statements. But I found pleasure in this renewed demonstration, that the colonization scheme, though assailed by another of the champions among its foes, a man of talents, learning, and piety too, is, nevertheless, so firmly erect upon the immovable foundation of light, and love, and truth; that it comes forth from this fiery ordeal, "like gold seven times tried," and retains all its brilliancy, purity, and strength, untarnished by the process, and triumphing in its own native and heaven-born sublimity.

Such were my impressions when I had finished its perusal; and a similar estimate of the utter impotency of the book, is, I have since learned, very generally entertained, by those of our fellow citizens, who are well informed in relation to the history and operations of the colonization enterprise. I therefore felt no disposition to attempt a reply, for, at that time, I confidently believed that the author had furnished, in the volume itself, abundant materials for his own refutation. I think so still, although I have yielded to the judgment of others, and consented again to engage in this controversy. I feel that I have no other qualification, than a conscientious attachment to the cause of colonization, because of an honest and deliberate persuasion, that it is one of supreme importance to the prosperity of my own country; of unmingled benevolence to the coloured population of this land, whether free or enslaved; and of rich and unspeakable promise

to fallen, degraded, and heathenish Africa. But as many of our friends, who agree with me in my view of the harmlessness of the assault, which Mr. Jay's book contains, express their apprehensions, lest the magic of *his name* upon its title page, may mislead the "unlearned and unwary," and that multitudes of such may be taught to infer from our silence, that we cannot or dare not meet this "giant" in the field of discussion, they have judged it expedient, from these considerations, that a vindication of the society and its friends from the unjust accusations of the Hon. Judge, is imperiously called for, and, by common consent, the author of the present Letters has been urged to the unwelcome task.

That it has not been performed by another and an abler hand, is not less a matter of regret to myself, than it can be to others. For although I do not, in matters of conscience and duty, quail beneath the frowns of any foe, nor shrink from any measure of obloquy and reproach, which I am permitted to share with the wisest and purest men of this nation; yet, with the evidence of the spirit and temper of the present race of abolitionists, which experience has furnished, unless a man is doubly strong in his own conscious integrity of purpose, and prepared to endure the revilings, and brave the barkings of the whole kennel press, hired for the purpose; he will neither seek nor desire a conflict with such antagonists as gather around almost every anti-slavery periodical. It is perhaps well, however, that the party should be taught, in the present case, that this Goliath, in whom they glory, can be encountered by the "least among the hosts of our Israel," and, in the name of that God in whom we trust alone for the success of colonization, I go forth in this defensive war.

In the following Letters, it has been my design to treat the author with all proper respect, while I animadvert upon the contents of his book, with the same freedom with which he has treated the sentiments of colonizationists. I have therefore taken up the several chapters of his whole "Inquiry," and brought into view each of his prominent arguments, and the authorities on which he places most reliance; and in correcting his numerous mistakes, and exposing the contradictions and inconsistencies which abound in the volume, I have not designedly, in any instance, charged upon him an intention to deceive, but attribute his blunders to his recent associations, which have led him to fallacious sources for information, and perverted his own mind, so that, on this particular subject, he has become disqualified for sober thinking. And in offering this apology for the author of the Inquiry, which in candour and Christian charity is his due, we have another striking and melancholy proof of that mental and moral infatuation, which affords the deplorable evidence that the imputation of "fanati-

eism," however it may be repelled by the zealots for immediate abolitionism, is nevertheless neither unmerited nor unfounded.

Under what other influence save that of pure fanaticism, could an intelligent, virtuous, and respectable citizen, gravely affix his name to a book containing such perversions of facts,—distortions of meanings,—misquotations of authors,—direct and palpable inconsistencies,—disconnected and incongruous declamation, and such illiberal censoriousness towards his "fellow citizens and fellow Christians," as those of which I have convicted this "Inquiry" of the Hon. William Jay? If the reader can excuse or explain such examples as those pointed out in the following Letters, in any milder and more Christian language than that which imputes them to *fanaticism*, I shall rejoice, that it may ever hereafter be adopted. I confess for myself, that this is the only mantle to cover them, which it appears to me is furnished, even from the wardrobe of *CHARITY* itself.

On the *one page* we read, that the whole of the slaves in the United States are "kept in ignorance, and compelled to live without God, and to die without hope." And on *another* we are told, that "245,000" of these same slaves are "*Christians*," and "*possess a saving knowledge of the religion of Christ!*"

At *one time* the Colonization Society is charged with "*professing to be a remedy for slavery, and the only one;*"—and at *another*, it is declared, that its "*professed constitutional object is exclusively that of colonizing the free blacks and manumitted slaves, and that it has no more right to meddle with slavery or emancipation, than a Bible Society!*" On *one page*, the Colonization Society is called a "*powerful institution,*" and on *another*, it is called "*utterly impotent,*" a "*weak, broken-winded, good for nothing team!*"

In one place we are told, first, that "the Colonization Society is, in its general influence, *decidedly ANTI-CHRISTIAN;*" and that it can "in no sense be termed a *religious society;*" and on the same page, it is said that this Colonization Society contains "*multitudes of religious men.*" And again, "The Colonization Society *unquestionably* comprises a *vast number* of AS PURE AND DEVOTED CHRISTIANS, AS CAN BE FOUND IN THIS OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY!"

But if this be not unsophisticated fanaticism, let me ask the reader to affix a softer name to the attempt here made by a good man, to appropriate the sentiments and language of his own father to the support of the scheme of *immediate* abolition, when that father, distinguished as he was for benevolence to every class of his fellow beings, expressed those sentiments and that language distinctly in behalf of *gradual* abolition, of which "*gradualism*" he continued an unwavering advocate, as the extracts from his writings conclusively show.