REPORT ON COLONIZATION AND EMIGRATION, MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649174898

Report on colonization and emigration, made to the secretary of the interior by Various

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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Trieste

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COLONIZATION AND EMIGRATION,

MADE TO

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

BY THE

AGENT OF EMIGRATION.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1862.

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REPORT

ON

COLONIZATION AND EMIGRATION.

EMIGRATION OFFICE,
Department of the Interior, Washington, December 4, 1862.

SIR: Permit me to present a report of the progress and present condition of the colonization measures, yet in their initiatory stages, with an enumeration of the pending propositions made by sundry States and colonial authorities, all of which are now under advisement.

At the last session of Congress the following provisions were enacted:

1. *Section* 11 *of act approved April* 16, 1862: "That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, is hereby appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the President of the United States, to aid in the colonization and settlement of such free persons of African descent now residing in said District, including those to be liberated by this act, as may desire to emigrate to the republic of Hayti or Liberia, or such other country beyond the limits of the United States as the President may determine: *Provided*, The expenditure for this purpose shall not exceed over one hundred dollars for each emigrant."

2. Furthermore, in "*An act making supplemental appropriations for sundry civil expenses*," *&c.*, approved July 12, 1862, I have the following provision: "To enable the President to carry out the act of Congress for the emancipation of the slaves in the District of Columbia, and to colonize those to be made free by the probable passage of a confiscation bill, five hundred thousand dollars, to be repaid to the treasury out of confiscated property, to be used at the discretion of the President, in securing the right of colonization of said persons made free, and in payment of the necessary expenses of their removal."

3. And again, in section 12 of "*An act to suppress insurrection*," *&c.*, approved July 17, 1862, it is provided: "That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to make provision for the transportation, colonization, and settlement, in some tropical country beyond the limits of the United States, of such persons of the African race, made free by the provisions of this act, as may be willing to emigrate, having first obtained the consent of the government of said country to their protection and settlement within the same, with all the rights and privileges of freemen."

It will be seen distinctly that those provisions link into each other, and constitute the foundation of our colonization measures, as proposed and recommended in the annual message of the Chief Magistrate, and his subsequent announcements.

Furthermore, a bill has been introduced during the last session to create a permanent office or department, to which such matters may be referred. The President having commissioned the writer with all the powers of the proposed commissioner or agent in such a department, he opened a widely extended correspondence on the subject of voluntary emigration, whilst the President, in the goodness of his heart, for the first time in the history of the country, re-