

MARYLAND COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MANAGERS OF THE STATE FUND.

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PROSPECTUS.

The Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, and the Board of Managers of the State Fund, have resolved to publish a quarterly journal, for the purpose of diffusing information concerning the principles and progress of the Maryland plan of Colonization. The Journal will also contain occasional notices of the operations of the friends of colonization in other parts of the Union. It will be published, at least, once a quarter, and sometimes oftener. Persons wishing to receive it regularly as published, may become subscribers by paying fifty cents per annum in advance. Donations for the support of the paper will be thankfully received. The friends of colonization throughout the state will confer a great favour by transmitting for the Journal any intelligence which may promote the cause it advocates.

All communications are to be directed to the "MARYLAND COLONIZATION JOURNAL, Office of the Maryland State Colonization Society, Baltimore."

Managers of the Maryland State Fund, Under "An Act relating to the People of Colour in this State."

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DR. JAMES HALL.

Missionary at Cape Palmas from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

REV. J. LEIGHTON WILSON.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Compiled for the Maryland Colonization Journal.

The Maryland State Colonization Society, was incorporated at the session 1831-32 of the Legislature. At the same session the state embarked nobly in the great cause, and made its munificent donation of two hundred thousand dollars, for the transportation and reception of emigrants in Africa.

It was early foreseen that a difficulty would arise in the limited capacity of the original settlements at Liberia to receive emigrants from Maryland to the extent that, hereafter, might be desirable. The parent society, acting for the entire Union, was bound to apportion the number of emigrants that Liberia was capable of accommodating, among the applicants from the different states; when, if the quota of Maryland should not be equal to her demand, a check might be given to emigration, at times when it might be most prejudicial. With a view, therefore, to this anticipated emergency, the state society determined to form a new colony, which, increasing in its capacity to receive in the same proportion that the spirit of emigration increased at home, would be the means of placing the state beyond the reach of any circumstances over which it, or the state society, could have no control.

There were reasons, besides that above mentioned, which particularly moved the state society to undertake, by itself, the establishment of a new settlement, under its own auspices. It had so happened, that the original colony of Liberia had assumed rather a commercial character in the course of its brief,

but valuable, existence. The wealth, that some of its settlers had acquired, was owing to the trade which they carried on with the natives and with the vessels that frequented their harbour. It was the desire of the Maryland State Society to see agriculture made the object of primary importance,—not only as placing the means of their own sustenance in the hands of the colonists, and rendering them independent of remote places or the native inhabitants for food; but because, ninthly, if not a far greater proportion, of the emigrants from this country would make better farmers than traders;—besides which, instead of having all their bad feelings brought into play by the artifices of a petty native traffic, engendering vicious habits by the intervals of idleness that it afforded, the emigrants, finding employment, in agricultural pursuits, from the moment of their arrival, and occupied with healthful labour, would have their minds in the best state to receive and preserve those sentiments of religion and morality, which it was the wish of the state society should form the character of the population. It was believed, also, that an agricultural community, spreading itself to the interior, would not only present better examples to the surrounding heathen, whom it was designed to bring to Gospel light, but would afford greater facilities for a rapidly increasing emigration from this country, than could be afforded by trading towns, however prosperous they might be. Of the soundness of these views, the Board of Managers had ample assurance, in the endeavours of the parent society to introduce an agricultural spirit into Liberia.

There was another object, which the Board of Managers thought of much importance, and which they proposed to combine with emigration from Maryland; and which could best be effected at the commencement of a settlement, and for which exclusive control was necessary. This was the establishment of the temperance principle, as a fundamental one—prohibiting any person from leaving Maryland for Africa, who would not first agree to forbear the use of ardent spirit, except in case of sickness; and holding any person ineligible to office in the colonial government, who either used or trafficked in it. An opportunity was offered for founding a nation upon the principle of temperance, and the Board of Managers thought it wise to lay hold of it.

It must not for a moment be supposed, that, in determining to form a new settlement, under the auspices of the state society and subject to its control, the Board of Managers intended either rivalry or opposition, in the remotest degree, to the American Colonization Society. On the contrary, the Board of Managers held in too high esteem the labours of the fathers of colonization—they found themselves profiting by their experience too often, to be influenced by any other motive than the ardent desire to co-operate in the most efficient manner in the great object of their labours. This, it was believed, after the experience of fifteen years, since the founding of the institution, could be best effected by each state undertaking the scheme of colonization within its confines. This had been done by the Maryland society in 1831, with results that never could have been anticipated, under the system which imposed upon the Board at Washington, duties, in regard to informing the people, that could only be accomplished by state societies, not existing for the collection of funds only, but interested in the application of those funds for the immediate benefit of the contributors. It was also believed, that the entire success of colonization in Maryland would do more to enlist the whole country in the cause, than the removal of twice the number of emigrants in the same period to Africa, taken indiscriminately wherever offered throughout the Union. That Maryland might be made a non-slaveholding state, was admitted; and the Board of Managers, in determining to establish a new settlement, felt satisfied that they were adopting the best, if not the only means, by which, under existing circumstances, it could be accomplished.

The next question that presented itself was the selection of a site for a new colony; and, after the most full and careful deliberation, the Board of Managers selected Cape Palmas, or its immediate vicinity. The coast of Africa, after pursuing a south-east direction from the Rio Grande, passing by Sierra Leone, Cape Mount, Monrovia, Grand Bassa, and Cestos river, here turns to the east-north-east, towards Cape Three Points, the mouth of the Niger, and Fernando Po in the Bight of Biafra. The return voyage from Cape Palmas, to the United States or Europe, is at all times easy, the trade winds being constant and regular from the north-west; but from the leeward, or eastward, towards the mouth of the Niger, out of the reach of the trades, the prevalence of calms and currents, renders a return to the windward round Cape Palmas extremely long and tedious. The position of Cape Palmas alone, is therefore, sufficient to make it one day, a most important commercial depot. All the vessels, destined for the Niger, must pass by it on their way from Europe or America; and the delay and uncertainty of a voyage to the east of it will, no doubt, in many cases, make it the place of deposit or exchange for European or American

manufactures, the further transportation of which will either be, by land towards the interior, or by the coasting trade of the colony to the great river of Central Africa.

On the 28th of November, 1833, the brig Ann, Captain Langdon, sailed from Baltimore, with a full cargo of goods and provisions, and eighteen emigrants, for Cape Palmas. The expedition was under the charge of Dr. James Hall, a gentleman whose experience in Africa admirably qualified him for his situation. The Reverend John Hersey accompanied him as his assistant, and the Reverend Messrs. Wilson and Wynkoop, agents of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, took passage in the Ann, with a view of ascertaining the fitness of Cape Palmas as a place for missionary labours. On the 25th of January, the Ann reached Monrovia, and remained there ten days, taking on board thirty old settlers, nineteen of whom were adult males well acclimated. On the fifth of February, the brig reached Bassa, and receiving five more recruits, sailed on the sixth for the point of her ultimate destination. Dr. Hall had sent word to the kings of the vicinity of the purpose that brought him to Africa, and when he reached the Cape, which he did on the eleventh of February, he found them prepared to treat with him. On the thirteenth a grand palaver or council was held, at which the only difficulty that presented itself grew out of Dr. Hall's refusal to make rum a part of the consideration of the proposed purchase. "His master," so he told the natives, "did not send him there to give rum for their land. Rum made the black man a fool, and then the white man cheated him. He came as a friend to do them good—not as an enemy to hurt them." Arguments like these, which he took care to have well explained by the head men of the towns who had been previously made to understand them, joined to the great desire of the natives that the Americans should be as one people with them, overcame the difficulties which at first threatened to break up the palaver, and the land was sold by the kings to the State Society, for a quantity of trade goods fully satisfactory to them, though perhaps small when the ultimate and probable importance of the settlement was considered. The kings reserved to their people the use of their villages and fields, and stipulated, that within a year a free public school should be established in each of the principal towns. The deed of cession is dated on the 13th February, 1834, and is signed by Parmah, king of Cape Palmas—Weah Boleo, king of Grahway—and Baphro, king of Grand Cavally.

As soon as the purchase was completed, Dr. Hall, admonished of the necessity of speedy operations, by the approach of the rainy season, commenced discharging the brig, clearing the land on the Cape where he proposed to lay out his town, and erecting shelters for his people. As soon as practicable, the vessel was sent back to Monrovia and Bassa, for the families of the recruits from those places, and by the time she returned—so actively had the work been pursued—a shelter was provided for all the settlers. The discharge of the brig was completed, and on the 19th March she sailed on her return. The Board had sent out the frame and materials of an agency house, which was now erected, and in less than a month after the first landing, the settlement began to wear the appearance of a compact and comfortable village. Messrs. Wilson and Wynkoop, after remaining at the Cape long enough to become acquainted, and highly pleased with its situation and its fitness for missionary labours, then returned to Monrovia, and from thence to this country. Mr. Hersey, after aiding Dr. Hall in the arduous duties of the first landing, and attending to the erection of the agency house, also left the Cape and came to the United States. Before his departure he erected a meeting house of the Methodist denomination, the first temple to the Almighty that rose upon the territory of the society.

Dr. Hall now found himself with about eighty persons of all ages—a mere handful of men among the thousands around him—and set himself to work to get them established on their own lots and fortifications erected for their defence. At the date of advices, August 17th, 1834, he had built a fort, which fully commanded the native town of Cape Palmas, and two small towns on the beach—as well as the landing place;—and thirty-seven lots were occupied. The gardens already supplied the emigrants with their vegetables, and the agent was about commencing the location of the farm lots, so as to enable the settlers to begin to clear and crop before the rainy season set in. At the end of four months from the day of landing, the emigrants had all passed through the sickness, which all experience on first residing in Africa, without the loss of a single individual. There is no similar instance on record, where death has not broken into the ranks of the pioneers of civilization. The only person who is yet known to have died, is a child of less than two years old, of the dysentery. Messrs. Wilson and Wynkoop and Mr. Jersey, as well as the captains of the vessels, which have visited Cape Palmas, speak in flattering terms of the healthiness of the situation, and fully corroborate the testimony which, in the first instance, induced the Board to select it.

The brig Ann, which returned to the United States in April, brought the first news from the

new colony—and the Board immediately prepared and despatched a vessel with supplies, both to support the emigrants already there, and to put means into Dr. Hall's hands, to prepare for the reception of new ones, and to meet the expenses of the establishment without drawing upon the society at home. The Sarah and Priscilla sailed from Baltimore on the eighth of June last. On her arrival at the Cape she found the settlement in an excellent condition, and Dr. Hall still well provided with means, from what was left of the shipment by the Ann, which he had husbanded with great care and economy. Every body was in good health, and no one more so than Dr. Hall himself. There were ample preparations for the reception of 100 or 150 new emigrants, and the work of surveying and laying out the farm lots had been actively urged forward. The natives were at peace with the colonists, and although inclined to be exacting when opportunity offered, had been kept in order by the firm and unyielding, yet mild and conciliatory course of the agent. The emigrants generally were well satisfied with their situation, and there was as little discontent expressed as could have been expected among men who had set themselves to subdue the forest and the wild. Without waiting for the return of the Sarah and Priscilla, the Board despatched on the 14th of December last, the brig Bourne, with fifty-eight emigrants, and supplies corresponding, for the Cape. They were under the immediate charge of the Rev. Mr. Gould, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, long a zealous labourer in this state for the improvement of her coloured people, possessing great influence among them, and from whose good sense and abilities the Board expect to derive most important advantages. He will remain for a time in the Colony and return to this country to take an active part in the cause here.

The Bourne arrived at New York a few days ago and brought highly interesting despatches from Cape Palmas, which appear in another part of this paper.

It cannot be supposed that the State Society will be now left to suffer for the want of pecuniary aid, by those who have heretofore so largely contributed to the cause when it was far more doubtful than at present. In proportion as the State Society can procure funds to be applied in Africa, will the prosperity of the settlements there be assured; not funds merely for transportation and support, but for the countless wants of a new community of emigrants in a strange land—whose first steps must, of necessity, be unsteady, and who feel so sensibly the importance of even the slightest assistance that is afforded them in the outset. The Board earnestly appeal to those for whose more immediate benefit they labour, for pecuniary aid. They appeal to all the friends of freedom in this wide country. They have surmounted the most difficult part of their undertaking; let them not be stayed in their course for the want of means to move forward, when every thing invites them to advance.

It may be proper to explain here how private contributions can be desired, since the state has made an appropriation of the public funds. By the act relating to the people of colour in this state, passed at December session 1831, chapter 281, the appropriated moneys are directed to be applied by three commissioners, "in removing or causing to be removed such slaves as may hereafter become free, and such people of colour as are now free, and may be willing to remove out of the state to the Colony of Liberia, on the coast of Africa, or such other place or places, out of the limits of the Colony of Liberia, as they may think best, and as the said persons to be removed may consent to go to, in the manner hereinafter provided; and the said Board may from time to time make such preparations at the said Colony of Liberia, or elsewhere, as they may think best, and which seem to them expedient, for the reception and accommodation and support of the said persons so to be removed until they can be enabled to support themselves; and shall also take such measures as may seem to them necessary and expedient to obtain and place before the people of colour of the State of Maryland, full and correct information of the condition and circumstances of the Colony of Liberia, or such other place or places, to which they may recommend their removal." &c. From which it appears that the appropriation is limited to the diffusing of information among the coloured people, the preparation of a suitable place for such as may remove, and their transportation thither. Under this authority the Board of Commissioners, (or Managers as they are called in the law.) have distributed a large number of useful and appropriate publications, employed agents to circulate and explain them, and advanced to the Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, the funds necessary to purchase the territory at Cape Palmas, make it ready for the reception of emigrants, and put it in a proper state of defence. Of the sum appropriated there have been expended about twenty-one thousand dollars; eight thousand of which the Society are to refund by the transportation of emigrants at the rate of one emigrant for every thirty dollars. For these eight thousand dollars, therefore, the Society must look to the private liberality of the friends of the cause. The other purposes to which such contributions will be applied, are the providing emi-

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