REPORT

OF

THE AGENT

OF THE

INDIANA COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

SHOWING THE

OPERATIONS OF SAID AGENCY DURING THE YEAR 1852,

IN ANSWER TO A

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE.

INDIANAPOLIS:

J. P. CHAPMAN, STATE PRINTER,

1853.
SENATE CHAMBER.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 14, 1853.

REV. JAMES MITCHELL.

Agent of the Indiana Colonization Society.

Sir—I have the honor to transmit to you the following enclosed resolution adopted by the Senate, this day, to which an early reply is respectfully requested.

Resolved, That the Agent of the Indiana Colonization Society be requested at as early a day as practicable, to furnish the Senate a statement in relation to the operations of said agency during the year 1852, the amount of money that has been expended out of the State Treasury for said objects, the number of colored persons, if any, that have signified a willingness to emigrate to Liberia, and all facts in his possession in relation to said population within this State.

Adopted by the Senate, January 14, 1853.

GEO. L. SITES,
Secretary of Senate.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 26, 1853.

HON. A. P. WILBER.
President of the Senate.

Dear Sir—I have the honor to submit the following statement, in answer to the Strong's resolution of inquiry adopted by your body on the 14th instant, requiring an exhibit of the state of the colonization enterprises.

Yours, with respect,

J. MITCHELL.
To the President and members of the Senate of the State of Indiana:

Governor: We respectfully submit a brief answer to your re-
cuest for information, as requested by your Secretary on the 14th
last, in regard to the operation of the colonization agency of
Indiana, the amount paid out of the State Treasury for the work
of colonization, and the number of colored persons who have emigrated
from our State during the year 1852, together with the disposi-
tion of our colored people to emigrate.

The amount paid out of the proper fund for colonizing is $1,000,
nothing has been expended. Part of the sum appropriated is de-
signated for the purchase of lands in Liberia, and in the proceedings
in regard thereto are not yet completed, that part of the funds
remain unexpended in the Treasury. The balance is now ready to go out,
so soon as the necessary grants can be made. The remainder is
spent for the purchase of lands in Liberia, and in the proceedings
in regard thereto are not yet completed.

It is with pleasure we state that the number of applicants for trans-
plantation is increasing; but the check given, because of the un-
published laws of the appropriation fund, has been somewhat injus-
tice to our cause, from which embarrassment, we pray that your
action will relieve the enterprise.

We would respectfully suggest a slight change in your coloniza-
tion policy, founded on the observations of last year. It is indis-
putably necessary to the vigor of the enterprise, that the State
should have the power to appoint an agent to carry out the objects of its creation. It is necessary that such an agency be
provided by the Legislature Department, for the following reason:

It is too often the case that the funds appropriated for the ex-
isting administration are made the subjects of unjust animadver-
sion by the opposition—hence, the disposition to grant against
this danger—and by doing so, entrenchment takes place where the people require in such relinquishment, and permanency offices and endowed institutions are the first sufferers.

In this light we respectfully ask you to assume the responsibility of creating a permanent office, having for its object the interest of colonisation, and sustained by a small salary of, say, $500 per annum. For a year or so this office should be filled by an officer empowered to superintend the work in the State. This subsequently named policy will require that the salary you appropriate to its support, should be used to establish a colored agency filled by a man of color devoted to the promotion of the cause, and celebration in Africa. Such an agency will do more to promote colonization than any other of the other measures of policy that you can adopt, and will be of good and more advantage to our enterprise than the small sum required to sustain it. Nor will it be cost of place in State, that several exemplary men of color are now ready to enter on such a work—in which event the whole can be done for the character of an agreement between the white and colored inhabitants of Indiana, to quietly and seriously promote—

the more fortunate and stronger races, aiding the weaker and less fortunate.

When our enterprise arrives at this stage, Indiana will present a noble spectacle and bright example to the sister States now contending with a premature political spirit—and her measure on the negro question, like connections of light—will flash up and rear our glorious political banner, showing others the way of success.

Or should the State wish to sacrifice the cause of those necessary agencies, she can require the old Board of Colonization to recognize, and give them the power to aid the State officers by counsel and otherwise, and she will a union of the two bodies would give greater stability to your policy, and a process of greater energy. The old association is composed of the best of men, and their long experience will be a warrant for the union of their action; to such a Board thus composed, you may leave the work of securing your appreciation, employing an agent, etc., requiring a regular report on the subject.

Imperatively, as well as the reputation of your State, demand immediate attention in regard to your colored inhabitants, and undoubtedly Indiana will be infinitely the gainier by such, for with her is the greatest existing opposition policy firmly based on the rights of race, she too calmly and securely pour her hand upon the yoke distanced, but fully pending storm; the conquering spirit of which is the desire of slavery—and in the midst of such agitation she will be prepared to meet with the possible forms of that strife, for she will press as a house and unchained from her infant leading to that grade and threatening invasion which would Aeternize a constant, given by Providence to the white races, and the equally injust agitations of the South whereby
that the same appropriated last year, although not drawn from the treasury, is devoted, and much action has been taken in the field of the law that as soon as we can get authority, we will draw and judiciously expend the whole sum. President Ulysses has been directed by the government of this State to draw on it for $12,000, so soon as the land made of Liberia has been surveyed and placed to our credit. As to the remaining $2,000, it has been devoted by promise to the persons who have paid themselves on the emigration list.

A word may not be out of place in regard to the general feeling...
of the people of the State on the subject of your colonization policy. It is not
saying too much to remark, that your separation policy has given general
indignation, and an attempt to unsettle it or change its essential character
will be the cause of restlessness and general dissatisfaction; a thing, how-
however, which we do not apprehend, if your action has shown that your State
benevolence exists, not alone in word but in deed.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mitchell,

Indianapolis January 29, 1853.
APENDIX.


ARTICLE XIII.

NEGROES AND MULATTOS.

Section 1. No Negro or Mulatto shall come into, or settle in, the State, after the adoption of this Constitution.

Sec. 2. All contracts made with any Negro or Mulatto coming into the State, contrary to the provisions of the foregoing section, shall be void; and any person, who shall employ such Negro or Mulatto, or otherwise encourage him to remain in the State, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars.

Sec. 3. All fines which may be collected for a violation of the provisions of this article, or of any law which may hereafter be passed for the purposes of carrying the same into execution, shall be set apart and appropriated for the colonization of such Negroes and Mulattoes, and their descendants, as may be in the State at the adoption of this Constitution, and may be willing to emigrate.

Sec. 4. The General Assembly shall pass laws to carry out the provisions of this article.

Thirteenth. At the time of submitting this Constitution to the people for their approval or disapproval, the articles numbered thirteenth, in relation to Negroes and Mulattoes, shall be submitted as distinct propositions, in the following form: "Exclusion and Colonization of Negroes and Mulattoes," "Aye" or "No." And if a majority of the votes cast shall be in favor of said article, then the same shall form a part of this Constitution; otherwise, it shall be void, and form no part thereof.

Extract from the Address of the Constitutional Convention on the subject.

That all fines collected for any breach of this article shall be ap-
plied to the colonization of so many of the Negroes and Mulattoes now in this State, as may desire to emigrate.

As to any further provision for colonization, it is left to State legislation. A majority of the Convention were of opinion that the true interest alike of the white citizens of this State and of its colored inhabitants, demand the ultimate separation of the races; and that, as the negro cannot obtain, among us, equal social and political rights, it is greatly to be desired that he should find a home in other lands, where public opinion imposes upon color neither social disabilities nor political disfranchisement.

No additional disability, not found in the old Constitution, is imposed by the new, on Negroes or Mulattoes, or their descendants, who may be in the State at the time of the adoption of the amended Constitution.

The above constitutional provision was adopted by a larger majority than that given to the rest of the Constitution; the unprecedented majority being 11,000 for the separate article.

A Joint RESOLUTION as the subject of the River Inquiry; and for the purpose of Subpoenas.

[Approved March 4, 1862.]

WHEREAS, Considerations of philanthropy and patriotism alike demand an earnest effort to suppress the African Slave trade, so long a reproach to the Christian world, and a base curragh upon an unfortunate race of our fellow-men; AND WHEREAS, The philanthropic efforts hitherto employed for that purpose have proved insufficient. Therefore,

RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That it is the judgment of said General Assembly that some other and more efficient policy should be adopted on that subject.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That it is the judgment of said General Assembly that it is the duty of the Governments of the United States of America, as the leading nation of the world, in advancing and maintaining the cause of civil and religious liberty, and ameliorating the unfortunate condition of mankind everywhere, by all proper and lawful means to use the necessary powers to crush effectually this revolting piracy.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That reason dictates, and experience has shown, that the crime against our race, and the just laws of God, can be more certainly put down than by any past heretofore tried, by the planting and rearing to maturity and power, colonial States upon the African coast, with republican forms of government, from the free black population of the United States; and that it is the duty of the Congress of the United States, and of the Legislature.
of each of the States of this Union, to enact such laws in harmony with each other, as would promote a general system of colonization so as only for the purpose of suppressing the African slave trade, but also to separate, as far as possible, the white and black races upon this continent—by sending off, where they might consent to it, all colored persons in the United States, except those who may be held to service, to such colonial States, without cost, and providing for their comfort there for a reasonable period afterwards; thus making some compensation to an injured race for the wrongs and oppressions of ages, and relieving ourselves from a population which, although seeming, can never be of us, in social or political rights; and for that cause are at all times liable to become a source of public change, and of public annoyance in each State where they may reside, and of causing irritation and bad neighborhood in the feeling of the States themselves.

Resolved, further, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their efforts to procure the passage of laws by the Congress of the United States, and that all the other States of this Union be likewise earnestly requested to cooperate, by similar laws, for the promotion of the foregoing objects.

Resolved, further, That the Governor forward a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to the Governors of all the States in the Union, and to the heads of the leading Colonization Societies in the United States; and that he be requested to open a correspondence with such Societies, and other persons, within his discretion, who may be devoted to the objects aforesaid, with a view to admit information generally, upon the subject, and especially to obtain plans best calculated to promote the objects above contemplated. And that he be further requested to lay such information before the General Assembly of this State at its next annual meeting, with such recommendations regarding them and the causes of colonization, as to him shall seem advisable.

THE LAW PROVIDING FOR A STATE COLONIZATION.

AN ACT for the colonization of negroes and mulattoes and their descendants, and approved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That for the purpose of colonizing negroes, mulattoes, and their descendants, that were residents of this State on the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, and shall continue to reside in this State, that the sum of five thousand dollars is appropriated out of the State Treasury for the year one
fixed in any sum not less than ten dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.

Sec. 8. This act shall apply only to contracts made with negroes and mulattoes subsequent to the passage of this act.

Sec. 9. Any negro or mulatto who shall come into or make in this State contrary to, and in violation of the provisions of the constitution, and of the first section of this act, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten, nor more than five hundred dollars.