REPORT

or

REV. JOHN MCKAY,

COLORED AGENT OF THE

STATE BOARD OF COLONIZATION.

ON LIBERIA.

INDIANAPOLIS:
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REPORT.

To the President and Members of the Illinois State Board of Colonization:

GENTLEMEN,—We respectfully submit the following as our report of our late visit to the Republic of Liberia:

We sailed from Norfolk, in the ship Brusher, on the 13th of November, and reached the African coast in twenty days; and in fourteen days more we came in sight of Grand Cape Mount, a bold promontory jutting out into the ocean, and gradually rising to an elevation of 1,000 feet above the level of the sea—having a base of at least fifteen miles, and capped by a broad table land, extending back into the country forty miles, terminating at a chain of still higher and more broken hills. The Cape and country adjoining appeared to me the most beautiful scene I ever beheld. Like many others, I had regarded that country as a barren and desolate waste; but I found myself much mistaken on this point, as the whole country was covered with a heavy forest of fine trees, of great variety and excellent quality for lumber, springing up from a soil of great fertility. After a run of thirty-six hours, we reached Cape Mesurado, the elevated site of the town of Monrovia, the Capital of the Republic, in the harbor of which we cast anchor on the 19th of December, making a passage of thirty-five and one-half days from Norfolk to Monrovia.

The passage was an agreeable one to me, as I was not disturbed with the sea sickness, and the termination of the voyage found me in as good health as I have ever enjoyed—this was fortunate, as I wished to improve the opportunities of the visit to the mission. I am much indebted to Mr. Wingate, the captain of the ship, for his kind attention and respect, for which I shall ever feel grateful.
I remained in the country eighty-three days, and sailed for New York in the Brig Harp, from Sierra Leone, on the 11th of March, in which we had rather a tedious passage of fifty days, owing to adverse winds. We have been informed that ocean steampers can make this trip in fourteen days or less.

I had proposed to see a respectable town in Monrovia, as it is the capital of the Republic; but my expectations were more than realized, for I found it making just pretensions to the character and position of a commercial city containing a population of about 2,000 inhabitants—its buildings, presenting rather an imposing appearance, consisting of stone, brick, and frame edifices, of excellent style and workmanship. The inhabitants are contented and happy; and whilst many of them are quite wealthy, they are all, as a general rule, doing well. They are decidedly a religious people, a greater proportion of them being adherents of the different churches than are usually found in any other community. And the state of morals is superior to that of any other place I have ever been in. I heard no profane swearing among the Monrovians, nor did I witness any intemperance.

On landing in company with our emigrants, I was introduced to President Roberts, and other citizens, who received me with much cordiality. I took the first occasion to state the object of my visit, in regard to the proposed settlement of colored persons by this State, and presented the communication relating thereto, with which I had the honor of being intrusted by the State Board, the answer to which we herewith submit.

I visited Milesburgh, on the St. Pauls river, White Plains, Clay Ashland, and the adjoining settlements; likewise Grand Cape Mount, and the settlement and city of Sierra Leone, in which I spent one week. Sierra Leone is a well built city of at least twenty thousand inhabitants, of which a small fraction are white, but that fraction are the privileged class, who hold the offices of government, and control the lucrative professions and pursuits, to the partial exclusion of the mass of colored. On seeing this state of society, I was enabled to understand the reason why the people of Liberia, by a constitutional regulation, deny the privileges of citizenship to white men.

In the rapid survey that we made, we became convinced that the most desirable location for a settlement is Grand Cape Mount; which is very correctly described in your Colonization Report of
Monrovia, Mr. R. Moore, who has traded a great deal at Grand Cape Mount, and who is desirous to aid in the settlement.

Monrovia, February 21st.

Re: Mr. McNeil.

Dear Sir—According to your request, I forward information with a view to establish a settlement at Grand Cape Mount. I am enclosing a letter for the following description of the surrounding country:

As regards the soilability, I consider it as he in many respects superior to Monrovia, because the level of the ground is equal to any in the Republic. The soil in consequence, will probably be excellent, with a fine soil of more richness in which, abounding with many species of fish. The climate is an excellent one for vegetables to be raised in a body.

In addition, Mr. McNeil, permits me to use the following extract from a letter of Wm. F. Findlay dated Feb. 21st:

"Permit us to present this to you, with the assurance that you are still laboring for the good of Liberia. The friends are not so rapidly as we can expect, and they must allow you to go on. The Cape Mount you have visited is a potential place for settlement as soon as possible. I do think the emigrants should be landed at this place as soon as possible, and by this time the people of present in mind that they will have something planted to eat, but if they should be brought in this place, as he proposed, a dense forest would disappear. Then the planters here who desire to settle at Cape Mount, or in any other part of the colony.

The writer of the above was the first emigrant of your State Society, and should you conclude to accommodate the slight misunderstanding which exists between this Board and the Government of Liberia, in regard to territory, as we to follow your first intimation, of settling at Grand Cape Mount, let that event Mr. Findlay is the best person you can select to superintend the location of the settlement. He has shown his capacity for enterprise by acquiring, since his emigration in the year 1850, a good farm of 40 acres of fine land, on which he has now a neat frame farm house erected, two stories high, surrounded by a young grove of tropical trees. This farm is on the banks of the St. Paul river, and the pretty white house surrounded by green trees, presents a beautiful appearance as you walk towards it. He has about 20 acres of coffee trees, many of which yield him annually on an average, about one dollar's worth of coffee per acre. He has had no debts in his family, and has little sickness—indeed but few deaths have taken place among the emigrants from Indiana, and I am convinced that the mortality has not been much greater than if they had remained in this country. Mr. Findlay's prosperity, I consider worth at least $5,000, and he is said to be out of debt. This rapid accumulation of wealth in the hands..."
of enterprising emigrants, was almost unaccountable to me, at first; but what I had a little leisure to observe, I discovered that the ecclesiastical advantages of the country are unparalleled, and in topical productions command the gold in every market of the world. Before closing this statement, I should mention that the chiefs, the Baw-Vey nation, who live at Grand Cape Morant, learning the year before last it in contemplation to form a settlement some where in Liberia, sent a deputation of two of their number to Morondow with me, to express their desire and willingness to have such a settlement effected amongst them.

As to the state and circumstances of the Republic, permit me to present the comprehensive view, found in the last annual message of President Roberts, to their Legislators, a copy of which we here with submit.

We will notice briefly the state of agriculture in Liberia. The soil, although differing in degree of richness and quality, must be classed with the richest soils—and not excelled by that of this country, and a man who makes a change of location, from this country, to that, loses nothing on this point, but, in my opinion, the health.

The productions are very numerous, and many of them are valuable as articles of exportation. Amongst these coffee, rice, cotton, sugar, tea, arrow root, ginger, pepper, and ground nuts (from which an excellent oil is extracted) are the most valuable in articles of commerce, and some of them are now produced in considerable quantities, and will, in a short time, be produced in very large quantities. By the Libereans are giving renewed attention to agriculture, in which will consist their greatest wealth.

I have seen thousands of coffee trees, and large quantities of coffee of the finest quality, which merits a ready sale. The manufacture of sugar was yet in its infancy, but that produced is of superior quality. Being raised in one of the southern States, we claim some little knowledge of the quality of cotton, and we must say that the Liberian cotton is as fine in quality, and more abundant in quantity than the cotton in the southern States, and I am convinced that no equal amount of labor bestowed in the cultivation of this article in the respective countries, will give a yield of raw material, of more than fifty per cent in favor of Liberia.

Rice and Indian corn or maize, are produced in large quantities,
and are mostly consumed by the inhabitants; nevertheless the exportation of rice is gradually increasing.

The teak tree or plant, can be grown in any quantity, and the quality of the article produced is superior.

Botanists of the most important articles of production is the palm tree, and the oil extracted from the nut. Palm oil is the leading article in the commerce of Western Africa at this day, and the Liberians will soon command the most of that trade.

The cotton-seed nut, castor oil plant, and India rubber tree, are likewise sources of wealth.

The forest trees of Liberia are valuable for many uses, timber for building ships and houses, dye woods that command a ready market and high prices; and such tinter as is used by cabinet makers for the finest furniture; amongst such may be named the camwood, tuck, ebony, lignum-vitae, rosewood, mahogany, &c.

Spices, aromatic drugs, and valuable gums, are the common products of the country.

Indigo is found as a common weed, and may be manufactured in any quantity. The fruits are numerous and delicious. I have seen oranges of the finest flavor, pineapples of a large size, guavas, lemons, limes, plantains, bananas, tamarinds, rose apples, pomegranates, cherries, cocoa-nuts, paw-paws, mangoes, pears, alligator pears, mango, water melon, beef-egg, chicle, and olives are in great abundance.

The vegetables are equally numerous and well flavored. We have seen and used sweet potatoes of the finest quality, and likewise cabbages, turnips, tomatoes, corned and garlic, and the beets, radishes, carrots, cypolings, butter-beets, snap-beans, peas, cucumbers, and melons are superior.

The domestic animals and barn yard fowls, are the same as those of this country, excepting the difference caused by the improvement of American stock, and a little attention to this matter will enable the Liberians, to raise in any desired quantity, a good class of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, hogs, and the various kinds of fowls now found in this country.

The wild game is abundant, including deer of several varieties, which are very plentiful. The rivers and lakes abound with fish; in those, and along the coast, an abundance of salmon, mahi, eel, perch, &c. are found, whilst the water flowing from the springs, and found in the wells of the country, is pure and good.

From the brief review it will be seen that Liberia is a land of
plants, and the industrious citizen may with ease secure not only the necessities of life, but its luxuries; and with no more labor than is used in this country, by the men of color, to procure a scanty subsistence, he may become a man of wealth.

The mineral wealth of Liberia, is yet unknown, but we may safely suppose that from the indications of mineral found scattered over the surface of the country, that copper, iron, and coal abound. I searched and brought home with me, a few specimens of copper and iron ore, and gold is known to abound in Africa, of which I was shown several specimens. These underdeveloped mines of wealth may be means to yield their treasures with ease to the well directed efforts of the other.

Mechanics are in good demand in Liberia, house, builders, bricklayers, carpenters, ship builders, blacksmiths, door makers, &c. &c. and each will receive from $1.50 to $5.00 per day.

The climate to me was pleasant, and agreeable, and I present the following statement of Dr. Longbein, who resided in that country a number of years, as strictly correct.

"On the whole, I regard the climate of Liberia as delightful pleasant. The extremes of the temperature state of the atmosphere may be not from 65° and 90°. The average height of the temperature, during the rainy season, is about 80°, and during the dry season about 84°. The mean temperature for the year is about 80°.

The only recognized seasons of the year, into which it is set apart, are the rainy, or the dry season, or in constant progress, the rains and the dries, the former of which appears early in our summer and lasts, and the latter in our winter and spring. During the early part of the year coinciding with May, much more rains fail than during the other half connecting with November. As a general rule, abundance, the earth may be sown, but some rain falls during every month of the year; and, in every month there is some time, clear, pleasant weather."

The prevailing fever has been regarded by many as one of the great hindrances to the rapid growth of Liberia, and a cause of terror to emigrants. From our observations and experience, we are convinced that the terror of this disease has been magnified, and we know that it is neither so painful nor so dangerous as represented. Like others, we had to pass through this ordeal, but we were not intimidated by it more than ten days, nor were we confined to the house more than one third of that time.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN NO KAY.
APPENDIX.
Mr. Secretary:

I have had the honor of your favor of the 10th instant, communicating the desires of the nation to the Federal Government in regard to the matter of an immediate and permanent solution of the question of the control of the African coast. I understand that the question is one of great importance to the future of the world and the welfare of the human race.

I am, therefore, determined to devote my utmost energies to the prompt and effectual settlement of this matter. I shall immediately prepare and submit to the Congress a comprehensive plan, which I believe will meet the concurrence of the nations concerned.

I am, with the highest sense of obligation, your obedient servant,

[Signature]

[Date]
under the safeguards of our common or an equity unyielding to license, we give our Government, founded on justice, the right of whatever nature, over our persons in the judicial acts.

Further, the President must be held supreme in all actual authority and must be able to execute all the powers, the duty of which, in the judgment of the Executive Government, is either inherent or the act of the State of Indiana. The law of emancipation of free people of color had that effect, as licenses.

D. B. CAMERON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
J. B. WILSON,
First President Repubucan Labor.

Appointed 2d December, 1862.
J. B. ROBERTS,
A. W. DAVIS,
G. B. LAYNE, Secretary of State.
ANNUAL MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT ROBERTS.

Gentlemen of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:

It is my duty on the present occasion of your meeting to inform you of the condition of the Republic. And I cannot, perhaps, commence in a manner more appropriate than by quoting another Hebraic, saying, "Vaheithor huch the Lord helped us." Every revolving year brings with it a sense of congratulation and thankfulness to God that the great work in which we are engaged, of standing up in these barbarous shores a Christian State, is onward in its march, by gradually developing its practicability and excellence.

During the year that has just passed, a kind Providence has watched over us for good, and our country has been signalized in all its relations. Every important interest of the government and people seems to bear the marks of Divine favor and approbation. No prevalence has afflicted our land; but, on the contrary, an unusual degree of health has been dispensed to its inhabitants. The agricultural prospects of the country were never more encouraging than at the present time—in no year of the Republic have the labors of the husbandman been more abundantly rewarded. The mercantile interests of the country seem to be in a flourishing state; our merchants are extending their operations by opening up new sources of commerce; and their efforts are producing very satisfactory results, not only in reference to products and trade, but the prosperity extending these branches of industry and enterprise has given an impulse to general improvement decidedly encouraging. Our educational interests have also been blessed—the educational facilities extended to the people through a missionary enterprise and the benevolence of private individuals in the United States are now more extensive than ever before, and promise much good to the youth of our several communities—who, I am glad to say, are
avoiding themselves of these advantages, and are making gratifying advancements in the various branches of useful knowledge. But above all, God has been pleased to bless the people with a generous visitation of his churches—inspiring them with a spirit of pure and undiminished religion—thereby wonderfully extending the salutary benefits of Christianity among the benighted tribes of the land, and dispelling the gloom of moral night which has so long overshadowed them.

These blessings, gentlemen, are not fortuitous, but sure indications of Divine protection and favor, and should create in the minds of our fellow-citizens, generally, as I doubt not they do, feelings of devout gratitude and praises to that beneficent Being who, in his goodness, continues to favor us with such distinguished favors. And in this connection I am impressed with the belief, and there is certainly nothing in its preponderance or extravagance, that the prosperity of our country, resulting from these blessings of Providence, has a relation to something out of it, and beyond itself. Its advance, evidently, is subservient to the good of Africa; and to my mind it is sufficient proof that God is forming the people for himself; that He has raised up Liberia to exert a special agency in the great work of redeeming this vast peninsula from barbarism, superstition, and idolatry.

I maintain fully the doctrine that “God has just as truly a work for nations to do in as he has for individuals;” and that these may or just as much of speciality in one case as there is in the other. If diversity of position, gifts, and social relations, have the sanction for a difference of action and influence as it respects individual persons, why may not the same diversity, existing as it does among the great masses of men, present a reason for special exaction and influence, as it respects particular nations? And this appears to me to be consistent with the history of nations in all ages. In the wise economy of God, each nation has its particular work assigned it, and is responsible for its performance. Many considerations tend to this conclusion. And, in relation to Africa, it would seem that the past history of Liberia clearly indicates some special design in Providence, some intervention that through has the conflict between truth and error; between freedom and slavery, is to be decided, and the victory given to moral righteousness in the elevation of down-trodden Africa. A single glance at the past and we readily see there was something in the first planting of these settlements, something
In the character of the men who formed the nucleus of this Commonwealth, which is altogether peculiar, and seems plainly to indicate some special design. Perhaps no other nation begin its existence under circumstances so peculiarly embarrassing as ours. But the men who laid the foundation of Liberia's existence were chosen and provident. They were not men of extensive learning, or of great wealth, but enterprising, conscientious men, imbued with the principles of freedom. Nearly alive to the wrongs they were suffering, they fled from grinding oppression to this, their sanctuary, to establish and enjoy, in government and religion, what is set forth in the Bible as the birthright of all men, and the foundation of all advance in human well-being.

The settlement of Liberia by such a class of men was a great event in the Providence of God, and seemed most clearly to point out His purposes: and to our elevation for some special and mighty agency in the work of restoring this continent from the iron grasp of ignorance and sin. And, gentlemen, do we not see indication also of the same design in the training to which the infancy of Liberia was subjected. Means and ends have a connection—by the character of one we are led to look for something answering to it in the other. A remarkable coincidence in the Providence of God foreshadows to us peculiarity of design in the sequence. And this is clearly illustrated by the strange facts in the early history of Israel. The wonderful providence in reference to that people must have made a deep impression on all reflecting minds that God was forming them for some great end, that He was training them for some mighty agency in the work of His mercy to man.

The beginning established the design. And so we may reason, in reference to Liberia. In the annals of no other country, Israel alone excepted, is there to be found such a series of trials, such a wrestling with difficulties, such scenes of imminent peril, and of signal deliverance. At every step we have been made to see our danger, and the hand of God in our rescue from it. And, gentlemen, what could be more remarkable than that Providence, which, notwithstanding our feebleness, advanced us so rapidly to the position of acknowledged nationality? And gave to our institutions a character so simple and free, at the same time wholesome and efficient, admirably calculated to develop the energies of the people, and to assuage in intelligence and virtue institutions whose influence, like the congenial atmosphere we breathe, pervades
all, sustains all, and yet interferes with no act that is right; among
the safest, freest exercises of thought and feeling, of everything con- 
trible with the existence of virtue—the foundation of all freedom.
Here government is purely a benevolent arrangement, looking to
the good of Africa, offering encouragement to the progress of
civil, social, and religious improvement among her children, leading
them to the elevation where, in the Providence of God, I believe
they are destined to rise—that they may see good days wherein
they have seen evil.

That Liberia has been raised in the school of a particular pro-
ducence, and has been raised up for a particular work, is my mind
peacefully assured of a fact. And the assurance and extent of that
particular work seems to me equally clear. And gentlemen, these
wonderful providences towards us should lead us to feel secure in
God while we walk in the path which He hath marked out for us.

I am sensible, gentlemen, that this subject has long engaged your
attention, and that you are deeply interested in the welfare of the
heathen around us, and especially those, in the Providence of God,
placed under our immediate care, and I doubt not, you will adopt
such additional measures within your reach, as will bring them
more speedily to the enjoyment of all the blessings of civilization
and Christianity.

Considering the state of these people—so detained and degraded,
through long ages of neglect and misery—it is exceedingly gratify-
ing to observe the great and important changes which are now so
rapidly being wrought in the social and moral condition of many
of them. And these changes are steadily going forward, affecting not
only the tribes immediately within the bounds of the government,
but their influence is penetrating into the interior, and will ulti-
mately and speedily be felt by those at the remote distance. So
far certainly, the end has been commensurate with the means. And
it is a matter of great encouragement to know that there is still an
increasing willingness, on the part of the natives, to accept the
beauties of instruction held out to them by the government,
and by Christian associations. “Do good and communicate to all
men as you have opportunity.” I may repeat here is a Divine com-
mand, and strictly applies to us in reference to the improvement of
the aborigines of this land. And I know this to be your most
earnest desire.

Gentlemen, I feel great satisfaction in being able to inform you
that since the last meeting of the Legislature nothing has occurred to disturb the friendly relations happily subsisting between this government and foreign powers. No instance of complaint seems now to exist, on the part of foreign merchants and traders, in relation to our commercial regulations; but their correspondence with the citizens of this Republic, as far as I have come to my knowledge, is harmonious and cordial.

We continue to receive from her Britannic Majesty's Government assurances of friendly concern for our welfare. From the French Government we are also receiving tangible proofs of the interest her Imperial Majesty feels in the future prosperity of this infant State. As a present to this government, the French Minister of War has forwarded, recently, one thousand stand of arms, to be followed shortly—so advised by our agent in Paris—by an equal number of equipments for our militia. I am happy also to inform the Legislature that, during the year just passed, the independence of Liberia has been formally recognized by his Belgian Majesty—accompanied with expressions of friendship, and warmest wishes for our success and happiness. By recent intelligence from the United States I am assured that the case of African Colonization, and of Liberia, is rapidly growing into public favor in that country. I regret, however, to have to acquaint the Legislature that the contemplated expedition by Commodore Lynch, of the country lying east of this Republic, is, for the present, at least, given up.

I am aware that our fellow-countrymen entertained encouraging hopes that this benevolent enterprise on the part of the United States Government, would be carried into immediate execution. I know of no project—whether considered in relation to the development of the resources of the country, and the extension of commercial enterprise, or whether with a view to the spread of civilization and Christianity—that promises more real good to Liberia and to Africa in general, than an exploration of the interior just at this juncture. Unfortunately for us, our limited pecuniary resources will not allow us to undertake the work. We will, therefore, hope that the enterprise will not be wholly abandoned by the government of the United States.

I am gratified in being able to inform the Legislature that, with one or two exceptions, the public peace among the native tribes within our jurisdiction, has been steadily maintained, and among
the tributary, which we are surrounded, I am happy to say, the best feeling towards this government possible.

I have to state, and it is a matter of regret, that the effects of the government to produce a reconciliation between certain Vey and Gush Chinds, and restore peace to the country bordering on our northwest frontier, have not been as completely successful as could be wished. Nonetheless, every effort on the part of the government to accommodate the differences between them, in the early part of the present year, their affairs grew worse, and assumed an aspect which threatened the most fearful consequences. The Vey Chinds were obstinate—received some commissariat supplies—and disregarded every overture made to them for an amicable adjustment of the disputes and difficulties which were distracting the country. Nothing but war could satisfy their claims. Indeed, one of their chieftains, Bonale, encouraged by George Caso, of Grand Cape Mount, became so emboldened as to extend his depredations into the Dy country—scorched and burning towns and villages—mutilating some of the inhabitants, and carrying off hundreds of others into captivity.

Matters being driven to this extremity, no alternative was left the government but to take immediate, decisive, and coercive measures to check—say, to put an end to these acts of aggression and cruelty. Therefore, in conformity with a resolution of the Legislature, adopted at its session in December last, authorizing the Executive to employ the most feasible, and if necessary, coercive measures, for the purpose of bringing about a speedy termination of the existing difficulties and wars in the vicinity of Grand and Little Cape Mount, early in the month of March, a detachment of two hundred and fifty men, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel McColl, was ordered to proceed to Little Cape Mount—to afford protection to the peaceable inhabitants of that district—to maintain the authority of the government—and to apprehend the offending tribes, that they might be brought to answer for the gross violation of their solemn engagements with this government, to abstain from all wars, and that they be required to make reparation for the wrongs they had committed on Unfriendly women.

On the arrival of the troops at Little Cape Mount—aftewar delay—all the principal Chinds of both sides—except two were assembled, and an investigation commenced of the matters in dispute.
between them, and of the chief who were implicated in the outrage committed on the Day tribe. These matters, however, were found to be exceedingly complicated, and likely to consume much time in their adjustment: it was, therefore, thought advisable that the chief, who readily conformed, should arrive at a time fixed to Moresby, where the investigation would be resumed, and a final settlement of all the difficulties between them. In the meantime the notorious criminality of Bubumba being clearly apparent, he was arrested, and conveyed to this place, and handed over to the civil authority for judicial examination.

He has been tried and found guilty, on the fullest testimony, of all the charges alleged against him, and is now in prison undergoing the penalty of the law. With apparently deep humility and contrition, he acknowledges the enormity of his crime, and admits the justice of the punishment awarded him. Several Day Chiefs have recently joined, under assurance for his future good conduct, believing, as they say, he was influenced wholly by George Cass, who has now abandoned his interest to set the example of the Government to be obeyed. I submit their request to the consideration of the Legislature, simply remarking, gentlemen, that perhaps under all the circumstances, some commutation of his sentence might possibly be a matter of policy consonant with prudent.

I have the mandate to inform the Legislature that the measures taken by the Government, in reference to the Day Chiefs, residing at Little Cape Morot, though not producing all the good effects desired, proved very beneficial by restoring peace to that neighborhood, and enabling the natives—especially the Day Country—to resume their agricultural pursuits, which in consequence of the disturbed state of the country had for some time been neglected; and that for the timely interference of the Government, another year would have found them almost wholly destitute and in great distress.

George Cass failed in his promise to meet the other chiefs here in April last, and I have reason to believe he has united with the Chief of Guromparu, and has recently made one or two predatory incursions into the eastern portion of the coast country. The intelligence, however, is not certain. I shall nevertheless be able, doubtless, during your present session, to give you further and more definite information in regard to him. With George Cass, war
seems to be a ruling passion. No persuasion, I fear, will restrain him from shedding the blood of his defenseless brother. But that he must be checked, gentlemen, is certain. Common safety requires it, justice and humanity demand it, and these claims are not to be resisted. If, therefore, it shall be established that George Cases is yet carrying on his predatory war, some measure should be speedily adopted to restrain him. I am happy to inform the Legislature, that with this exception, no serious disorder seems to exist among the tribes within the jurisdiction of the Republic.

The state of affairs in relation to Trade Town remains unchanged—excepting, which was very desirable, that a reconciliation between Boyer and Jim Pot of Trade Town Point, has recently been effected. Boyer, however, has not yet fulfilled all his engagements with the government—especially in not having reported and delivered up for trial the person of Granado—whom he aided in the attacks upon our settlements in the county of Grand Basin, in the year 1851. He has paid five hundred dollars in consideration of his misconduct in that connection; but protest his inability, in consequence of Granado having escaped out of the country, to apprehend him. In every other respect he promises implicit obedience, and is constant in his assurances of fidelity to the government, and earnestly entreats that its favor upon him, in relation to commercial interests, may be removed. And perhaps it is due to him that I should state that notwithstanding the dubiousness of his motives, in one instance, certainly, he has demeaned himself in a manner which entitles him to some credit. A few months since a Portuguese slaver attempted to raise the same trade in that district, and Boyer, with some others, engaged to deliver him, within a certain number of days, two hundred slaves, and received in advance a portion of the purchase-money; in the mean time, however, Boyer communicated to the authorities at Grand Basin, information of what was going on, which enabled the government to take measures to frustrate the whole design.

But, gentlemen, with respect to Boyer, I may also state that hitherto, there be no cause within the bounds of the Republic, George Cases and Granado perhaps excepted, has been guilty of greater deception and unblushing duplicity in all his intercourse with the government. For this reason, in connection with his failure to arrest Granado, whose escape from Trade Town, there were good reasons
In belief, he favored, indeed advised, I have not thought proper to withdraw the intendment prohibiting trade and intercourse with that territory.

It will now rest with the judgment of the Legislature to decide how far the recent conduct merits future confidence; also to determine whether any other demand shall be made in lieu of the stipulation for the delivery of Greado—which was a covenant of the first importance—and also whether the intendment, in reference to trade, shall be revoked.

I am gratified in being able to state, gentlemen, that no measure has been adopted by this government for the punishment of gross misconduct on the part of natives which, especially those residing near the coast, has produced more extraordinary results than the intendment, and the perseverance with which it has been maintained, of commercial intercourse with Trade Towns. I am satisfied in his giving a stability to the authority of the government which no other measure could have produced in so short a time. And I am clearly of opinion that a similar policy, in reference to Grand Cape Mount, or the establishing of a settlement there, will have to be adopted to restrain Georgia State from indulging that indolent propensity for war which seems to possess him. The natives of that neighborhood report that he boasts of his intention to continue his war and destroy the government as troops to continue, if he be not only to retire for a few weeks into the interior, beyond their reach, and when the troops shall have left the country he will return to prosecute his designs. Such, doubtless, are his reasons, as he is aware of the impracticability of maintaining a military form in the country for any length of time. The natives, however, in an intendment of commercial intercourse with Grand Cape Mount,

close up the channels through which he obtains his supply of arms and other munitions of war; and in a very short time he will be powerless, and, like Bajazet, will return to his allegiance to the government.

In this connection, gentlemen, I am happy to state that the successful attack, by the troops of the Republic, in 1829 on Sherif's fortified town, which was supposed by the natives to be inexpugnable, but, I am persuaded, fully established, in regard to the natives, the inviolability of our arms, and that in future the authority of the government is not likely to be opposed by open force.

Nevertheless, I beg to remind the Legislature of the importance
of continuing a well-organized militia, which, in reference to the
tribes, seems to be the only thing that can give them an idea of
the power of the government. And, gentlemen, this is not the only
consideration which should direct the attention of the Legislature to
the necessity of establishing and maintaining an efficient military force.
We have settlements remote and weak, surrounded on all sides by
savage tribes who delight in war, and whose policy is easily exi-
cepted, and which, in many instances, is only restrained by a knowl-
edge of the readiness and power of the government to punish their
treachery. It becomes us, therefore, to be prepared for any emer-
gency. Our citizens should be thoroughly trained in the use of arms,
and for acting together if called into the field. But to effect this
efficiently, every member of the Legislature requires revision. And I
would recommend it, gentlemen, to your careful attention, with the
hopes that you will adopt such improvements as shall give promise of
greater efficiency to the arm of public defense.

It has been suggested, gentlemen, in recent discussions, that the
Legislature, at its present session, should take into serious considera-
tion the necessity of recommending to the people some amendments
to the Constitution, which the times seem to demand.

An amendment to the 11th section of the 1st article, which de-
fines the right of suffrage, is suggested as being particularly desira-
able. The object of this amendment, it appears, is to provide against
abuse of the elective franchise; as also against evils which it is sup-
posed are likely to arise in the event of a large influx of immigrants
on the eve of an election, who, according to existing regulations,
are permitted, immediately on their arrival in the Republic, to draw
lands under a certificate; which certificate, as expressed in the law,
gives only an “imperfect right” to the land until certain improve-
ments shall have been made on it. When said certificate may be ex-
changed for a deed is too simple.

The section of the Constitution referred to provides that “every
male citizen of twenty-one years of age, possessing real estate, shall
have the right of suffrage.” By some it is held that persons holding
land under certificate come within the meaning of this section;
others maintain that the word possession, as employed in this con-
nection, was intended to imply absolute right or title—a thing of the
possessor in one’s own right, subject to no conditions; therefore, the
party holding land by certificate only, cannot claim under it the
privilege of voting. This subject, by some means, came up before
the Legislature, at its last session, when the following Bill entitled "an Act defining the right entitling male citizens to suffrage," was adopted, viz:

"That from and after the passage of this Act, all male citizens of twenty-one years of age, who have drawn lands, and holding a certificate, showing the time at which said lands were drawn, thereby giving the drawer possession, shall be considered possessors of real estate, and allowed the right of suffrage during the term which is allowed by law for the improvement of said lands." This definition of the Legislature, however, though observed at the late general election, does not settle the question at issue. Indeed, instead of satisfying the objections that had been raised, it has given rise to new grounds of complaint, and has also excited to think reconsideration among the people. It is contended that the Act is not defined in itself unconstitutional, though adopted possibly as a device of policy, it is calculated to establish a precedent of a most dangerous tendency, at once repugnant to, and subversive of the firm principles of the Constitution. Such gentlemen, it must be admitted that the arguments carry with them some weight. It is too well known, generally to require mention that in forming the Constitution no one principle was kept more rigorously before the Convention than a division of the three great powers of the government, legislative, judicial, and executive; that they should be independent of, and separate from each other—such as to the discharge of the proper and legitimate functions assigned it. Under this wise and judicious arrangement it is for the Legislature to make laws not to interpret them—those even of the most important, such as the fundamental law of the Constitution. To weigh words and sentences to define their distinct and legal meaning, especially in reference to the provisions of the Constitution, is for another department of the government, not the Legislature.

However, it was this action of the Legislature principally, I believe, that suggested this idea of amending the Constitution. But gentlemen, while I confess that in my opinion, some amendments to the Constitution, consistent with the interests of the people, and perhaps at the present time demanded, are desirable, I am also of opinion that no such necessity exists for the purposes contemplated, in regard to the section referred to. It is, nevertheless, quite plain that the subject which has led to those reflections is one of much importance, and is entitled to the serious and careful consideration of the
Legislature. The abuses complained of, and the evils likely to arise from the abuses to which I have alluded, are such, gentlemen, as should be remedied and provided against. And the remedies to be applied are clearly within the scope of the powers of the Legislature. A slight revision of the law regulating elections will correct the one, and the passage of a generalization law will secure the object desired in regard to the other.

Gentlemen, in a young and prosperous State, where, with each revolving year, the power and resources of the Government and the energies of the people are being rapidly developed, it becomes frequently expedient to make new laws, or modify old ones, to meet the exigencies of affairs growing out of these changes; hence the frequent recurrence of your meetings.

And coming, as you do, from all parts of the Republic, it is presumed that you are acquainted with the particular wants of the people, having learned from them the practical operation of old laws and the expediency of existing new ones. It is, therefore, expected, gentlemen, that your attention will be drawn to a review of the present code, in all its branches, and that you will make such additional laws or amendments as the general good may require or that circumstances may justify. I may, however, be permitted to invite your particular attention to the navigation, commerce, and revenue law, which, in view of the extension of trade, requires, in my opinion, some alterations, which I will take occasion at an early day to lay before you, necessary to its efficiency; and at the same time will be affecting greater facilities and encouragement to commercial enterprises.

I am not aware, gentlemen, of any very important changes necessary to be made in the Judiciary. The present system, though susceptible of improvement, works well, except perhaps, so much as relates to the private courts, whose power should be increased to enable it to deal with more promptly in the settlement of estates. I recommend the whole system, however, to the careful attention of the Legislature. Nothing, certainly, is more interesting to the public happiness, than the faithful administration of justice. To this branch of the political organization the citizen looks with confidence for the protection and security of his rights, and for the redress of grievances. Before the court he presents himself, with full assurance that just recompense will be awarded him for wrongs which he may have suffered from the hands of others. It is, therefore, important
that every facility for carrying the laws into practice, and faithful execution should be provided. And I may also add, that it is equally important that the rules of legal proceedings before the several courts should be made as simple as possible, stripped of all unnecessary technicalities, and brought within the comprehension of every citizen.

I beg also, gentlemen, to draw your attention to the subject of education, which so much in itself is more vitally important to the future welfare and prosperity of our infant State. The government being immediately under the influence and control of the people; wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among them, are as absolutely necessary to the support and stability of the government, as for the preservation of their rights and liberties, and as those depend on spreading the opportunities and advantages of education in the various parts of the country, it is the duty of the Legislature to cherish and sustain, by every possible effort, this great interest. I am sure, gentlemen, of the deep solicitude you feel in regard to this subject; I am well aware that the limited state of the public finances, at the present time, will not allow you to appropriate much money to this object. I doubt not, however, that you will encourage, to the extent of your ability, those auxiliary societies and other institutions which are promoting among us the means of education, as well as true religion; and are preparing many of the youth of the State for useful employment both in Church and in State. I have the satisfaction to inform the Legislature that the Act of Incorporation for "Eberle College" has been accepted by the gentlemen who were named as Trustees; that they have organized themselves into a body corporate; and though their plans, I believe, are not fully digested, we may hope that they will be able soon to carry the contemplated college into operation. It has been suggested, however, that some of the provisions of the charter are not as clear and as well defined as could be wished, therefore doubts might arise in regard to their true meaning, which it would be well to prevent by an amending act—a draft of which has been handed to me, and is herewith submitted for your consideration.

Another object of general interest which deserves the fostering care of the government, and which cannot fail to suggest itself to your attention, is agriculture. There are but few subjects that can enter with greater force and most into the deliberations of the Legislature than a consideration of the best means of promoting, es-
peculiarly among the native tribes, the agricultural interests of the country. This source of national independence and wealth I recommend to the constant friendship of the Legislature.

The land along the banks of the St. Paul river, as far as Milleur, having been all taken up, it has occurred to me, gentlemen, that great advantages might be secured by opening an avenue or road from this river, at some suitable point, leading into the interior; on each side of which farm lots may be laid out for the accommodation of new settlers. I have conferred with the gentlemen who have charge of the Colonization Society's affairs, and the location of immigrants now going out under its auspices to this country upon this subject. He approves the plan, and thinks the society would not object to defray a portion of the expense thus incurred. I recommend the subject to the favourable consideration of the Legislature.

Perhaps, gentlemen, of all the evidences of the prosperity of the country, the increase of population is the most unequivocal. And with respect to Liberia, the constitution requiring that the first enumeration under it shall be ordered by the Legislature, this has not been ascertained since the year 1845. I beg, therefore, to recommend to the particular attention of the Legislature the propriety of making provision, at the present session, for taking a census of the inhabitants of the Republic, including the entire aboriginal as well as the American-Liberian population.

Gentlemen, I have the honor of laying before you a communication from Governor Wright, enclosing an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, in reference to the purchase of a tract of land in Liberia, as a location for emigrants from that State. You will observe, gentlemen, that one of the provisions of the Act is opposed to the existing regulations of this government with regard to the allotment of lands to emigrants, and which, in my opinion, it would be impossible to adopt. I have communicated to Governor Wright my views respecting that provision, and have stated some of the reasons which make it inexpedient for this government to entertain it, and at the same time suggested a plan which I thought might meet the wishes of the General Assembly. Accompanying is a copy of my letter. No further communication from Governor Wright, however, has been received. Nevertheless, in the meantime, I would seek an expression of the Legislature in regard to this subject, that the Executive might be prepared to act definitely should the question be revived.
I have an intimation, gentlemen, that a subject of such delicacy will probably be submitted to your consideration during the course of the present session. I allude to a petition which I understand will be laid before the Legislature by Mr. Jacob Vortmann, and others, his relatives, of Grand Bassa, who claim the right of property in a certain tract of land in the aforesaid county, lying along the beach between the old settlement of Bassa Core and Fishtown Point. They say their claim is a purchase alleged to have been made many years ago of King John, by their father, to secure the right of way to the coast. This being a subject of much importance, I may state for the information of the Legislature, that a portion of the tract claimed was purchased—whether before or after the purchase alleged to have been made by Mr. Vortmann's father is uncertain—of King Joe Harris, by the New York and Pennsylvania Colonization Society, and was occupied in the year 1831 by the inhabitants, being the first settlement from the ship Nima, whose melancholy fate forms a part of the history of Liberia, and subsequently, in 1836, a council of the chiefs of the whole country, attended by Governor Buchanan and Dr. Stimson, was assembled at Fishtown, where it appears from the documents executed on the occasion, not only the purchase made of King Joe Harris was confirmed, but the remaining portion of the territory lying around the sweep of Bassa Core was ceded to the Commonwealth. It also appears, from what I can learn, that Mr. Vortmann's father was represented in the council, but no claim was set up in his behalf; or any reservation made in his favor. I beg, however, to add that while the rights of the government should be strictly guarded and looked after, individual rights are no less sacred, and that justice to Mr. Vortmann and those connected with him in the claim referred to, demands that a candid and careful investigation of the whole matter be had by the Legislature, and if its claim can be established, that their rights be secured.

I have the satisfaction to inform the Legislature that the program of repairs and improvements of public buildings has been as favorable as circumstances have permitted. For want of funds, no measures have yet been taken to commence the building orders;
be erected in this city for the Executive residence. I am happy to say, however, that the prospects are now more favorable, and that the work may be commenced, during the present season, under a fair prospect of being prosecuted to completion within a reasonable time. I would also invite your attention to the dilapidated condition of the lighthouse on Cape Mosquee, which is almost entirely unfit for use. I recommend that provision be made for the erection of a new house, more suitable to the purpose, and for supplying a camp better adapted to the wants of the mariner. A further appropriation for the erection of the prison in the county of Grand Bassin is found to be necessary, and to which I would ask your particular attention. Your consideration is also invited to the accompanying communication from Mr. Edward Hall, of Greeneville, Seneca, requesting, on behalf of the proprietors of the saw-mill in that county, that the Government will extend to them such aid as will enable them to carry forward more successfully their operations.

The estimates of the appropriations necessary for the ensuing year, together with an account of the receipts and expenditures at the treasury will be laid before the Legislature at an early day. In the account, gentlemen, you will observe that the expenses of the year have been greatly, though unavoidably, increased by the necessity of maintaining, for several months, a garrison in the new settlement of Buchanan, as also by the expedition to Little Cape Mount, and other measures which the Government has been compelled to adopt for the purpose of settling disputes and difficulties among certain native tribes, and putting an end to their cruel and destructive wars. But we may reasonably hope that the harmony now so generally subsisting between the several tribes will continue, and that in future there will be no occasion for expending any considerable amount of money to maintain this good understanding and preserve peace.

I may not omit to mention in this place, also, that we are under renewed obligations both to the Americans and to the New York State Colonization Society for pecuniary assistance rendered the Government during the year, and which arrived very opportunely to relieve it of some pressing demands.

In the report of the Secretary of the Treasury the state of the public finances will be fully shown. I have great pleasure, however, of stating here, that the condition and prospects of the revenue are decidedly encouraging—indeed, quite equal to our most sanguine expectations.
During the year past proved the revenue has been more considerable than during any former year. And from the increased and still increasing trade and commercial facilities, bringing into the Republic large quantities of merchandise, it may be safely estimated that the revenue which will be received into the treasury from that source during the present year, will considerably exceed the amount of receipts of the year just ended. It is, therefore, confidently hoped that with the means which the Government will have at its disposal, from extraneous sources, during the year, not only its ordinary expenses will be met, but all its public liabilities will be discharged, and that such public improvements may be made as are deemed to be particularly necessary.

The receipts into the treasury, from all sources, for the fiscal year ending 30th September last, have been $2,919,232 dollars, while the public expenditure in the same period have amounted to $2,397,925, leaving in the treasury on that day, exclusive of unsold merchandise in public warehouses, $521,307. I may add, there is now due the treasury, from various sources, the sum of $7,865; and the present facilities of the Government, including $5,925 due to foreigners, amount to $13,925; leaving a balance against the Government at the period above named of $5,669.

It is my duty to inform the Legislature that the asserted accountableness has been observed by the officers who have been charged with the management of the fiscal concerns of the Government. No delinquency has been discovered. And as the period for which many of the officers who have been associated with me in the administration of public affairs, during the present administration, and expire with the current year, I avail myself of this occasion to assure the Legislature that the officers, generally, have manifested their best endeavors to the discharge of their respective duties; and I am greatly inclined to them for their cordial support and cooperation in everything which has been suggested for the advancement and benefit of the public interest. But, gentlemen, it is the alluring dispersions of Divine Providence, during the year, two of our most distinguished fellow citizens and public servants, have been removed by death. To say that Hon. H. Trask and James Brown are no more, is to open again the fountain of public grief. But while we bow in humble submission to the alluring hand of Divine Providence, the enormity of languages, the force of argument, and the commanding eloquence of our late Secretary of State, ent...
never be erased from the memory of those who have listened to his
patriotic appeals in this Chamber, in advocacy of Liberia’s rights
and national interests. Superior genius and talents were his, and
his mind endowed by nature with a lively imagination, and a
remarkable degree of logical strength, admirably fitted him for
the many responsible public stations, which, through the course of
many years, he was called to fill.

And (except that his public career numbered fewer years than
may not be said in reference to the public services of the late
Senator Brown, whose love of country knew no bounds, whose
ardour increased in proportion to the difficulties which attended
it, and whose danger threatened, no personal sacrifice was too great
for him to make for the public weal. It is true for me, however, to
pronounce here an eulogium on the public life and character of
these eminent men. Their public deeds are identified with, and be-
long to the history of Liberia, and will be recorded on its pages.

Gentlemen, in the above I have submitted for your information,
and have recommended to your consideration, such objects of pub-
lic concern as occurred to me worthy your particular attention and
serious deliberation. I may, however, during the course of your
session, have occasion to invite your attention to other matters of
interest connected to the common weal. In the meantime, gentle-
men, I am fully persuaded that your own and for the interest
of your fellow-citizens will readily suggest to you other subjects of
importance which will claim your immediate attention.

It is a matter of congratulation, that the views which I have been
able to lay before the Legislature of our affairs—foreign and domes-
tic—present gratifying and indubitable proofs of the continued
prosperity of our country.

And in conclusion, gentlemen, allow me to say that I am deeply
sensible of the admonishment as well as of the importance of the
labors in which you are now about to engage. To your guardiansh
ship are committed the rights and interests of the whole people of
this Republic; and your first care is to preserve and foster them by
good and wholesome laws, thereby laying deep the foundation of
Liberia’s future happiness and prosperity. And, gentlemen, I
earnestly urge upon you that the prosperity of a nation depends
much upon the purity of its constitution—especially of its legisla-
tion. If this be founded on the broad and solid basis of right, politi-
cal economy, as well as moral philosophy, pledges to it the possession
of every object which lies within the grasp of national desire. If we desire to seek our country's good, to see her people prosperous and happy; her government permanent and just; and her national character high and commanding, this is true patriotism—a passion which, if controlled by virtuous principles, leads to work that is generous in sentiment, elevated in purpose and noble in action. Men, however, do not always distinguish between the popular and the true notion of patriotism. Love of country is a radical principle in the constitution of men; and often leads him to that popular notion of patriotism which is selfish in its objects, and in its domestic relations devoted to national interest. But this is not true patriotism—that patriotism which,whatever his county line, or sectional prejudices, is founded upon the law of all mankind, and which, whatever he may, entitles the minutest jealousy which are ever ready to interrupt public harmony. True patriotism is, in its very nature, virtuous and right, which is virtuous and right. It aims by equal legislation, extending to the remotest edge of the country, to encourage and support the interests of all.

Acting, gentlemen, upon these principles of a pure and high-minded patriotism, and incorporating them in the rising generation, then shall our patriots be the surest of our children—and Liberty, having here found a home, shall abide for ever.

Gentlemen, I have now only to urge you of my cherished concurrence and assistance, where required, to promote the discharge of your present duties. And my earnest prayer is, that your minds may be open to that Almighty Being, the source of all wisdom and knowledge, and from whom comes all earthly blessings, that He will enlighten your understandings, and direct your deliberations that whatever measures you may adopt shall tend to the perpetuity of our institutions, the improvement of society, and the spread of civilization and Christianity among the barbarous tribes of this continent.

J. J. ROBERTS.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, Montevideo, Dec. 6th, 1852.
It may not be out of place to re-publish the appeal of Wm. W. Fisklay, in connection with this report, as he is referred to therein, and as some of his friends may wish to review it and again consider its sober truths:

**Appeal of Wm. W. Fisklay, to the Colored People of Indiana.**

Dear Friends:—The writer being a colored man, it may be supposed that he dislikes the ill-being of his race, not a part of the colored race, but of the whole race of Africa, in this land and in Africa. Nor do I consider myself guilty of affectionate, when I say, that I ardently desire their elevation, and am willing to contribute all I can to that end. It has long been an inquiry with me, how can our race be elevated? How can colored men be made truly independent? After much serious and painful inquiry, I have concluded, that to be truly independent, we must enjoy rights and privileges as broad and as liberal as those enjoyed by the white citizens of the United States. In other words, have the right of selecting our law-makers, and our magistrates; and all the offices of State should be accessible to our color; and not only so, but we should be free to move in such circles of society as we may be entitled to by our moral worth, character, and tastes; and likewise free to form alliances with those classes of society. These, in my humble opinion, are the rights and privileges we most earnestly believe we can be independent.

But now let us inquire in candor, do we, as a people, enjoy such independence? Do colored men, in the most liberal of the northern States, enjoy such independence? You all know that they do not; the struggle is the same. And will the time soon come in the history of American society, when the colored man will be permitted to enjoy such independence—independence, not only in civil things, but independence in all the more delicate matters of social equality? I must honestly own I think not. And further, I am bold to confess that anything short of the above described independence will not satisfy me, nor should anything short satisfy the man of an independent spirit.

But such independence we cannot obtain in the United States, therefore I will seek it outside the United States. I will seek it here I know I can find it, and that is in the Republic of Liberia.
which is the only Christian Republic where the colored man can find a quiet and secure home. Now do not dissentingly in that resort from civil and social oppression, for I am only doing what thousands of the first and best citizens of the United States did, and I think it an honor to follow their example, to seek equality, though like them I am compelled to seek it in a wilderness. And the object of this appeal is to entreat you who have true independence, and am willing to endure any trial to obtain it, to go with us to this land of liberty, where we may likewise sit in the elevation and enlightenment of our whole race, which duty is more obligatory on us than upon the white race, many of whom are willing to sacrifice their lives and property in the work of converting Africa.

Some of you may blame me for not staying in this land and contending for all the above rights of men. Our answer to all such complaints is this: we believe that civil slavery in this land will be abolished by Divine Providence without the cooperation of the free colored race; he requires not our aid in this work—his ear and will, in his own way, prepare slavery from the civil institutions of America. But I honestly doubt whether it is the will or order of Providence to grant us perfect social equality with the white race at this time, nor am I disposed to strive or quarrel with them for this honor, but would follow the example of Abraim, who disliked the strife that had sprung up between him and Lot, and religiously proposed separation as a remedy for the quarrel, and a means of perpetuating peace so we should separate from the white race, but we may be free and they enjoy peace; for, doubtless, God has given the land to Moses. Acting from the same religious and honorable views, we confidently expect that God will bless us in our movements.

It is the design of the writer and some of his friends to go out to Liberia about the month of October or November next, and it is desirable to have as many emigrants from India as we can muster. Liberia holds out many attractions for the man of color, but the greatest is that of liberty and independence. Thousands have gone from this land to that, and all who have been individuals have done well: many of them are becoming wealthy, but what is best, they are all free! Come, let us go and cast our lot in with them and be free likewise. If any of you have been cherishing the spirit of independence, and long for such freedom as the free Republic of Liberia offers, and if you desire a refuge to that land, just let your wishes be known to the agent of the American Colonization Society.
in this State. Address Rev. J. M. McCune, at Indianapolis, who will
be pleased to book your name as an emigrant and procure for you a
passage out, and send you all the information that you may want.
No time should be lost—act now, act for yourselves, your children,
and your own.

WM. W. FINDLAY.

Covington, Ind., April 6th, 1849.
PLAN OF SETTLEMENT.

At a public meeting of the State Board of Colonization held on the 25th of May, 1854, the foregoing report and accompanying documents were submitted to the Board, and after consideration, was submitted the following statement, which being considered was adopted, together with the appended resolutions:

From all the evidence we can gather relating to this subject, we believe that Grand Cape Mount is the most desirable location for the Liberia settlement. "Africa would be preferable to Europe," said the French navigator, Wilkes, in 1857, "if it were all like Cape Mount!" He banished out with delight on the beauty of the prospect and the richness of the country. He says, "There you find oranges, melons, melon, pumpkins, cherries, plums, and the abundance of animals was so great that the fish was sold at an almost nothing." An unrivaled view of beautiful scenery has been sometimes, from the above site, by voyagers, visitors, and residents in regard to this point of the African Coast, and this delightful scenery is the locality now put at our disposal for the use and benefit of our colored people who may desire to change their place of residence.

And to secure this place for them, prompt measures have been adopted by this Board. Finding the Government of Liberia disposed to accommodate the slight difference that exists in relation to funds, by settling them at prices agreeable to this Board, the following resolution was adopted at last meeting:

"Resolved, That we will select the locality at Grand Cape Mount on the African Coast, as the point for our Liberian settlement; and instruct the Secretary to make an appeal to the public, and to the churches, to raise the sum of three or four thousand dollars to meet
the wants of the case until such time as our existing law can be changed.

Resolved, That the communication of President Roberts be so answered as to state the above determination of the Board, and direct him to call Wm. W. Findlay to his aid in the work of making said settlement.

To carry out the intentions of the Board it will be found necessary to adopt a plan of settlement.

A town or village should be planned, containing the following essential buildings:

A large house for the reception of emigrants, where they can be cared for during the short period of their acclimatizing.

A strong public store-house, so constructed as to furnish a protection to the settlers, if such should be needed.

And a large school-house which could be used as a church; for schools and churches are indispensable to American civilization, and our colored friends in Liberia are not disposed to move one step without them—in them they give their earliest and greatest attention.

Such necessary structures will cost at least $8,000, and to erect such, we have no State appropriation; that on hand being for the transportation of emigrants and the purchase of lands. This being the case the Board, as stated above, having directed us to make a prompt appeal to the friends of colonization in the State, and place the proposition to secure the means for the erection of these necessary buildings at once before the public as an object of benevolent effort and contribution.

We, therefore, desire asking our friends who have the means, and who love to see the spread of our Christian civilization, to aid in this good work; nor do we expect to ask in vain in thus endeavoring to give Africa an additional American colony, and in making the noble appropriation of our State available.

A town must be plated at Grand Cape Mount, and such public buildings as those named above are indispensable to the beginning of a new settlement on the African coast; for when erected they form the nucleus of a town, around which the houses of the settlers are built.

The first, or temporary houses, for residence, are cheap structures, not costing over $30 or $40 dollars each; yet notwithstanding they afford a safe and comfortable residence until such time as the emigrant has ability to erect better.
We then, for the first time, publicly express the hope that there are a number of men in Indiana who will give $100 each to this object; and we hope there are a larger number who will freely contribute $50, and others $30, and $20. Will not the friends of Finkle, who aided him to go to Liberia, aid him in doing something good to humanity? We think he is a wise and trustworthy man, and just such an one as will succeed in his enterprise.

With these preparatory remarks, we now submit the following resolutions for concideration and adoption:—

Resolved, That a correct list of all who contribute to the foundation of this undertaking be preserved; and that such as contribute sums over five dollars, shall have their names recorded on a parchment record, and forwarded to the Government of Liberia, to be placed amongst the future records of the town of Grand Cape Mount. Adopted.

Resolved, That we recommend this enterprise to the favorable consideration of a benevolent public. Adopted.

The following resolution was submitted for reflection, to be considered at the next public meeting of the Board, which will be called for that purpose by the call of the President:

Resolved, That we favor the colonies of Indians to settle in the establishment of a mission school at Grand Cape Mount, for the benefit not only of the children of the nation, but likewise of the Yoruba nation. And in this end means a meeting constitute of persons to receive from their respective communities such sums as may be forwarded to them for this object.

The Yoruba nation, who reside in the Grand Cape Mount country, are so intelligent as to be capable of much improvement. They are Yorubadent, and consequently are not degraded by the errors of paganism. They recognize the unity of the Deity, and the idea when the abolition of the false prophet is about to be swept away it will be an easy and agreeable work to improve them with a view for our Christian civilization.

J. MITCHELL,
Sec. of the Board.