

R. G. Cole Esq

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Vermont Colonization Society,

PRESENTED

OCTOBER 18, 1858.

THE
THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
VT. COLONIZATION SOCIETY,
PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING IN MONTPELIER,
ON THE
EIGHTEENTH OF OCTOBER,
1858.

BURLINGTON:
FREE PRESS PRINT,
1859.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Vermont Colonization Society was held in the Brick Church in Montpelier, on Thursday evening, October 18th, 1858.

The President, Rev. John Wheeler, D. D., took the chair at seven o'clock, and called the meeting to order.

Rev. P. H. White read the 60th chapter of Isaiah and offered prayer.

The Treasurer, George W. Scott, Esq., presented his report, which was accepted. Messrs. C. C. Parker, L. H. Delano and Daniel Baldwin, were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the coming year.

The Secretary's Report was then read by Rev. J. K. Converse; on motion, voted that the report be accepted and published by the Board of Managers.

Rev. Dr. Wheeler then addressed the Society in an eloquent and forcible manner, setting forth the scheme of colonization as the only hopeful means of introducing a christian civilization among the millions of Africa.

Dr. Wheeler was followed by Rev. Dr. J. B. Pinney of New York, formerly Governor of Liberia. Dr. Pinney's address was one of great interest, rich in facts and illustrations of his subject, and was listened to with fixed attention for more than an hour.

The Committee to nominate officers made their report, and the following named officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz :

REV. JOHN WHEELER, D. D., President.

HON. CARLOS COOLIDGE, } Vice Presidents.
HON. SAMUEL KELLOGG, }

REV. J. K. CONVERSE, Secretary.

GEO. W. SCOTT, Esq., Treasurer.

HON. JOSEPH HOWES, Auditor.

MANAGERS.

HENRY STEVENS, Esq.,
NORMAN WILLIAMS, Esq.,
LUTHER WHEATLEY, Esq.,

REV. C. C. PARKER,
REV. B. B. NEWTON,
REV. W. H. LORD,

The Society then adjourned.

JOHN SPAULDING, Esq.,
J. N. POMEROY, Esq.,
J. G. STIMPSON, Esq.,
HON. WILLIAM NASH,
HON. DANIEL BALDWIN,
L. H. DELANO, Esq.

REPORT.

Mr. President, and

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On the 23d of October, 1819; a few of the best men of Vermont, assembled in the old capitol, with a large portion of the members of the Legislature, and formed the Society whose thirty-ninth anniversary we celebrate this evening. Nearly all those good men have passed away to a higher life. They are gone:—But we live to see the fruit of their labors, and to behold the promise of far greater results than *they* dared hope for.

Africa was then a dark land, abandoned to rapine and piracy, Commerce with that land there was none, except in human flesh. Christian missions had not begun to exist there then. No one, reasoning from the facts of history, could have anticipated the results already gained, for history furnishes no parallel to the present case.

We are the oldest State Society in the Union. We have had no period of suspended animation. Though we are far removed from the mass of the colored population and have but few of that class among us, our sympathies have not been dependent on their actual presence. We have borne some humble part in the good work. We have contributed since our organization, as nearly as we can ascertain about \$31,000, in funds. We have been otherwise useful to the cause. Vermont has educated, in the person of the lamented Ashmun the man who, under God, in the hour of danger, saved the infant colony from destruction. Vermont has furnished the man who

penned the Constitution for the Republic of Liberia, and also the man who now holds in his hands—to a large extent—the commerce of Monrovia.

HOME OPERATIONS.

During the year now closing, we cannot report large results. It will be recollected, that the panic and stringency in monetary affairs began about the date of our last meeting. It was then, and in fact has been ever since, an unpropitious time for collecting funds, even if we could have found a suitable agent. From the date of our last meeting until July, no efforts were made for collecting funds.

About the last of June, the Rev. John Orcutt, one of the Secretaries of the American Colonization Society, commenced visiting the towns east of the mountains, and was expected to spend several weeks in the service of this cause, but having been disabled by a fall, he spent only one week in the State. Capt. Barker has also spent a few weeks in the eastern part of the State, under a commission from the parent Society, as agent for obtaining subscribers and making collections for the African Repository. He has also received donations for the general purposes of the Society, but the Board are not informed to what amount.

We have thus had no agent in the field, and the cause has been left to the spontaneous offerings and efforts of its friends, throughout the great portion of our State.

Since the first of July last the Secretary has spent a little more than one month in the service of the Society. He has visited the following named places, viz: Royalton, Underhill, St. Albans, Milton, Charlotte, Hinesburgh, Essex, Castleton, West Poultney, Manchester, Bennington, Orwell, East and West Rutland; and from these places, including Burlington, and Swanton, has collected \$470.49. He also reports a Legacy pledged and inserted in a Will—from an aged friend of the cause—of \$500, in the South part of the State. The above collections, added to the amount forwarded by your treasurer and the sums sent directly to Washington, make up \$800, raised in the State for Colonization since our last meeting: This is something, but not all that we ought to have done. But from the readiness with which contributions have been given, when asked,

we are led to believe that our cause is gaining confidence and winning new friends as its aims and results become better known.

HOPEFUL MOVEMENT.

One sign of promise is seen in the increasing attention paid to the education and elevation of the colored people in this land.

The Ashmun Institute under the care of the New Castle Presbytery, has a good number of students and is preparing to educate several young men,—sons of chiefs and head men in the interior of Africa.

The Methodist African College, at Xenia, Ohio, is also in a prosperous condition, with some 50 students.

Our Colleges and other Literary Institutions, are, from year to year, more cheerfully opening their doors to colored students. Two colored young men have just graduated at the Pittsfield Medical College with distinguished honor. They are to settle in Liberia. The late Anson G. Phelps of N. Y., by his will left \$50,000 for the College now in process of erection in Monrovia. And the late Rev. Chester Avery of Pittsburg, Pa., out of an estate of \$600,000 has given \$20,000 to found a school for colored youths, at Alleghany city, Pa.,—\$100,000 as a permanent fund for spreading civilization and christianity in Africa, and \$100,000 for promoting the education and elevation of the colored people in the United States and Canada. The Methodist church South, have expended \$70,000 the last year in Christian Missions and for religious instruction among the negroes. And the Presbyterian Church South, are engaged in the same good work with equal earnestness and liberality.

In proportion as our colored people are educated and elevated, will they appreciate the scheme of colonization. In the free States they are awakening to a sense of their true interest. In Cambridge, Mass., and the vicinity of Boston, they have held several conventions and have formed an Association called the "Liberian Emigration Society." Thirty one families, containing 150 persons have signed the articles of Association and have expressed their intentions to go to Liberia so soon as they can arrange their effects. Thirty of this number are preparing to sail in the next expedition which sails first of next month.

A similar movement is commenced in Philadelphia, where there is a colored population of 30,000,—18 African churches, containing some 5000 communicants.

"The African Civilization Society" has been recently formed in New York, of which the Rev. Henry H. Garnet is the President. "The objects of the Society, as set forth in its Constitution, are:— 'The Evangelization and civilization of Africa, and the descendants of African ancestors wherever dispersed; the destruction of the African slave trade by the introduction of lawful commerce into Africa; the promotion of the growth of cotton, and other products there, whereby the natives may become industrious producers as well as consumers of articles of commerce; and, generally, the elevation of the condition of the colored population of our own country and of other lands.' The Society has among its Directors many gentlemen well known for their enlarged philanthropy." This Society have appointed a committee of five intelligent colored men to go to Africa to select a site for the settlement of an industrial colony.

In Canada West, are 45,000 fugitive slaves; satisfied at length that that region is not suited to their wants, they are looking anxiously to the land of their Fathers. In an address they have recently published they say:

"Nothing is more manifest than the designs of Providence, to sift out the most enterprising of the slave population of the South—direct them to Canada for another discipline, and finally send thousands of them back, via the St. Lawrence and Antilles, to the land of their fathers, to be a blessing to their own race, where, in Liberia alone, ten thousand have already gone before them, and two hundred thousand more have been civilized through their happy instrumentality. That the process of acclimation is not only generally fatal to the white man, but is far more safe and easy for all who are slightly tinged with the blood of Ham, (as their sebaceous glands secrete oil instead of saline,) is the united testimony, not only of Messrs. Cooper and D'Lyon, but also of Governors Roberts and Benson, Drs. Smith and Roberts, Messrs. Stephens and Benham, as well as Rev. D. A. Wilson, Principal of the Alexander High School at Monrovia. And besides it is the united testimony of the above dis-

tinguished gentlemen, that contentment is universal, where families are not sundered, one here and another there—and that the most promising homes and fields are open there, both for plenty and usefulness, for all that will ever be able to go thither; and the strangest of all is, that white men will deny it, and that colored men here will believe them. They also add, that emancipation and centralization are natural twin sisters, and he who is the true friend of their race will encourage their ever living unmolested under the same roof, in the same community, and as far as possible, under their own independent government."

THE PARENT SOCIETY.

The operations of this Society during the last year have been carried forward with energy and success. Its income for the year closing last January was \$97,384. While nearly all benevolent Societies have suffered by the embarrassments of business, this enterprise has been sustained with the usual liberality of its friends. The debts of the Society have been paid, and the Society's ship, the M. C. Stevens, has made two trips to Liberia, carrying out 271 emigrants. Of these thirty-three were born free, 238 were emancipated by their masters. Their average age was 26 years. Most of these Companies were taken directly to the highlands at Carcysburg and their acclimation has been passed, with only two deaths, and one of these an infant.

THE REGINA COELI.

The affair of this vessel will result in advantage to Liberia, by bringing her character honorably before the world. She stands completely vindicated from all *participation* in the slave trade. Not one Americo-Liberian had been apprenticed on that ship. And it now is seen, that the Liberians acted promptly, wisely, and did all that was possible, to prevent the enlisting of apprentices within their bounds.

CONDITION OF LIBERIA.

Liberia is the only black Republic in the world. It extends six hundred miles along the western coast, from Cape Mount on the North to Cape Palmas on the South, embracing an area two thirds as large as the six New England States.

Eleven thousand one hundred and seventy-two emigrants have been transported from this country. Two thirds of these were recently slaves. These emigrants with many natives intermingled with them, are located in about thirty different settlements. In most of these settlements, there are churches and schools. Nearly all the useful arts and trades have been introduced; also the printing press and the steam engine. Two hundred thousand of the native tribes reside within the bounds of the Republic, who are subject to its laws, and are receiving, from year to year, more or less the impress of civilization. The tribes in proximity of the settlements are so far civilized that their male citizens are allowed to vote. These several tribes, through their chiefs or head men, have bound themselves by treaty to abstain from all aiding or abetting the slave trade, from war, from the offering of human victims and from other cruelties in their customs; and have engaged to submit all their difficulties, between tribe and tribe, to the President and Senate of Liberia for arbitration, instead of going to war with each other.

The Liberian Republic spreads over its citizens a constitution like our own, which gives to them equal rights, sustains common schools and recognizes christianity as the primal law of the land. Under the protection of the government, missionaries have been introduced among the natives and are laboring with good success. The number of native converts, who have united with the churches of the several denominations, is between four and five hundred. The tone of morals is believed to be higher and the Sabbath better observed there than in Vermont. All visitors to the country commend the Liberians highly in these respects.

MR. COWAN'S VISIT.

The Rev. Alexander Cowan of Kentucky, has spent a large portion of the last year in Liberia. He went there to examine the country and to publish to the world a candid view of its condition. He visited every village, spent several days in each, and weeks in some, and examined with care every interest affecting the health and well being of the people. He publishes the results of his observations in a work entitled "Liberia as it is."

He finds many things to approve and some to censure, but on an impartial review of the facts, he declares his conviction "*That Liberia is the only place where the colored man can be really free and truly useful to himself and to his race.*" He says "the Republic is in possession of every material to make it a wise, prosperous, rich, strong, populous, moral, and Christian nation, of one homogeneous people. Her accessions of citizens from abroad must be by the law of climate of their own distinct branch of the human family; and they must be moved by the same considerations to make it their home that influenced every present settler to cast his lot there. And every native within her territorial jurisdiction, who embraces Christianity, will most naturally become a citizen, and will kindly and readily coalesce as a citizen of the one common country of his race. All will be of one blood, one religion, and one intent in being a nation. It is settled in this the infancy of the Republic that it *never can be possessed by another race of people.* It is therefore a great reservoir opened up to the scattered Africans who are free from human bondage, to gather and have a name that is above every name, that is now by common parlance attached to them.

"The civil government is adapted to the habits of her present citizens, and those who shall seek citizenship there. The laws meet the social, moral and political interests of this race of people. In the commencement of their civil life they meet with influences that radically remove old established and long practiced customs, adapted to and growing out of the relations they sustained while living in the United States. Every new comer discovers on his landing in Liberia, "this is the free country I had stated to me before I left the United States." Caste cannot exist there, but that which grows out of wealth. And this will always be limited to a few, and be as transitory as the stay of an eagle on the towering oak, which soon takes wings and flies away. It is a position that this year's poor may occupy by prosperity the next year."

THE MEN OF LIBERIA.

The men of Liberia were, some of them, recently slaves; and most of them reared under circumstances most unfavorable to mental development; yet Liberia has her statesmen, her commanders and

judges who have shown themselves to be men of discretion and good judgment, and that they feel their responsibility to their country. Like some of the men in our revolutionary struggle they have been educated by the exigencies to which they have been subjected. They who have thus far guided the ship of State, have proved themselves fully competent to the work undertaken. The decisions of Judge Benedict and the State papers of Presidents Roberts and Benson will not suffer in comparison with those of like functionaries in our own land.

CLIMATE, PURSUITS, &c.

The soil of Liberia is rich in its virgin state, and with moderate cultivation, will furnish abundance of food to the inhabitants. The territory of the Republic is sufficient for a million of farmers, giving to each a farm of one hundred acres; and this territory without war and almost without cost can be extended indefinitely into the interior.

The climate, to the African, is congenial and healthy. The thermometer is seldom below 60° and never above 85° or 90°; vegetation is always green and luxuriant. Go there at any season of the year, and you shall see in her gardens, fields and forests, the expanding bud, the opening blossoms, the forming fruit, the ripening fruit and the sear and falling leaf.

The greatest draw back in the case and that which Mr. Cowan notices in his "Liberia as it is," as the greatest error or fault, is, that the colonists have not improved and do not now improve as they ought, these advantages of soil and climate. The passion for trade with the natives has blinded the colonists to their true interest, and kept many poor, who, by an industrious culture of the soil, might now be rich. Noting these facts Mr. Cowan says that "near one half the emigrants are living in villages on quarter acre lots, and that the proportion of this number who are merchants or mechanics or professional men, is small; and the consequence is that many are still poor and are obliged to live mostly without animal food."

If the people there ever lack animal food, or are short of the means of subsistence, it is not the fault of the country but the result

of bad management in depending upon native trade while they neglect the cultivation of the land. "So far as the country is concerned," says Mr. Cowan, "she can receive 5000 industrious emigrants a year, and give them a good farm to cultivate, on which they can establish good houses; lands where they can acclimate without danger; new places can be opened up and be ready for the occupancy of emigrants. The question is not whether the land is capable of giving such a number of industrious emigrants a good living and a pleasant home. The questions are, whether the Society can command the means to send out 5000 yearly and support them six months, until they can acclimate, build their houses and plant their fields. *The resources of the country and the means of living are ample.*"

THE NATURAL PRODUCTS

Are rich and in great abundance. Liberia with industrious culture can supply the world with ginger, arrow-root, ground nuts, indigo and palm oil. The coffee tree, indigenous to the soil, brings in its annual tribute. Camwood, with proper tools and beasts of burden, can be gathered from the forests to furnish the world with the very best red dye. Cassava, yams, eddoes, sweet potatoes and other nutritious vegetables are produced in abundance with but little labor. Corn and rice grow in great luxuriance. Of all the substantial articles of vegetable food, three days of labor will produce as much in Liberia as six days will produce in New England.

The sugar cane and the cotton plant in several varieties, some of them equal to the best Sea-island cotton, are native to the soil and grow on from year to year increasing their yield and quality to the third or fourth year, whereas, in other extra tropical countries, the cotton and the cane must be planted every year. Let 50,000 industrious emigrants plant their farms to cotton and coffee and the sugar cane, and employ the natives in their culture, and Liberia can in a few years, supply the markets of western Europe and by so doing remove the chief props which now uphold the system of slavery. As the growing of cotton and sugar was the occasion and motive for bringing the African here, so in the wonder working providence of God, the culture of these staples in Africa, in richer soil and with

a more abundant yield, will undermine the system of slavery,—make it unprofitable and aid in its overthrow.

Benjamin Coates, Esq., of Philadelphia, in a recent work on the cultivation of cotton in Africa, says that “cotton of superior quality, fully equal to the best grown in America, can be raised in Africa by free labor, in an unlimited quantity, and much cheaper than it can be produced by the expensive slave labor of the United States.”

“In confirmation of this, we have the testimony of the celebrated African travellers, Barth, Livingstone and Bowen, whose explorations have revealed the fact that nearly the whole continent of Africa is admirably adapted to the cultivation of cotton. That in many places it grows spontaneously, and that several kinds bloom all through the year, requiring only the labor of picking. That most of the interior tribes are an *industrious people*, glad to work for the smallest compensation. What is needed is, that the intelligent and enterprising colored people in the United States, many of whom are well acquainted with the processes of raising, cleaning, and packing cotton, should be encouraged to go to Africa, and engage in raising and shipping this article, where lands are free, and where the labor of the natives can be procured for the merest trifle. They should do this on their own account, realizing thus a handsome profit, and very soon becoming able to supply the demand for this important product throughout all Europe, leaving the American cotton grower the market of his own country only, and thus gradually but surely extinguish the desire for extending or even perpetuating slavery in our beloved country, by rendering it unprofitable.

“The English merchants and manufacturers are already engaged in the cultivation of African cotton. About two hundred and fifty thousand pounds of cotton, “equal to the Georgia article,” was received in England during last year from Western Africa. This success induced a shipment last month, from Liverpool, of upwards of fifteen thousand dollars worth of machinery and requisite materials to enable efforts to be made further in the interior of Western Africa, to establish new cotton stations, and prosecute the matter with still more vigor. The Cotton Supply Association of Manchester, is calling forth the energy of the people and the Government of Liberia, by offering prizes and medals for successful cultivation of cotton. A friend

has put at Dr. Livingstone's disposal a sum of money sufficient to test the region through which he travels to produce good cotton, in color staple and cleanness.

“With good roads throughout the country and steam on the navigable streams, no doubt can be entertained that Africa generally may be readily made one of the most important cotton producing countries in the world. The settlement of intelligent colored people from the United States, as well as the planting of churches, schools, and free Governments, and the opening of legitimate commerce, will conspire rapidly to effect a complete and speedy transformation of that long unknown land, into one of the most attractive and prosperous portions of the earth.”

Thus we have brought to view some of the benign results of colonization to the Southern bondman,—to Africa and to the African race. We do not see how a christian man or how any intelligent man can look upon this enterprise without sympathy and approval.

Yet we are sometimes told that the Colonization Society has done nothing,—nothing for the slaves, nothing for Africa, nothing for the race, nothing for humanity and christianity.

Let us then bring back the 11,000, emigrants—the Bible—the printing press—the steam engine and the cotton gin. Blot out the churches, the schools, bring away the constitution of the Republic—that noble charter—and let anarchy and despotism take its place. Let the missionary stations be all abandoned and the ministers and teachers be recalled. Extinguish those moral lights that have been kindled there and let darkness again come upon the land. Let the slave trade be restored and exterminating wars again be revived. Rebuild the demolished barracoons, and let 40,000 human beings be yearly shipped amid all the horrors of the middle passage. Let recaptured Africans be thrown unprotected on that coast to be seized and dragged upon the next slave ship. Let the accents of christian worship and the cheerful sounds of voluntary industry be forever hushed and let Africa's altars be again stained with the blood of human victims, and the shriek of the pirate's victims be again heard in the land. Let the lions and other savage beasts which had fled from the face of civilization, return and roar and howl over the desolation

you have made. Let all things be brought back to the chaos, confusion and cruelty which reigned there at the dawn of our Society—then look upon the scene and see if nothing has been done; if colonization is a failure.

All which is respectfully submitted,

J. K. CONVERSE, Sec'y.

REPORT

Of the Funds collected in Vermont in aid of the American Colonization Society for the year ending Oct. 18th, 1858.

COLLECTIONS BY THE SECRETARY.

Ferrisburg, Balance of Collection of 1857,	\$ 3 25
Royalton, Collection in Congregational Church,	15 65
St. Albans, Contributions from Individuals,	27 00
Swanton, Congregational Society,	8 65
Milton Falls, " "	16 00
Castleton, Individual Contributions,	56 00
West Poultney, Individuals,	5 50
Underhill Flat, Congregational Church,	10 94
Manchester, Baptist Society,	5 00
Manchester, Congregational Society,	16 00
Orwell, " "	15 15
North Bennington, " "	12 50
West Rutland, " "	27 47
East Rutland, Individuals and Contribution,	44 03
Middlebury, " "	20 00
Charlotte, Congregational Society,	9 25
West Milton, Congregational and Methodist Societies,	15 75
Hinesburg, Congregational Society,	15 00
Burlington, Individuals,	40 00
Essex, Estate of N. Lathrop,	40 37
Miss Denny, of Thetford,	50 00
	<u>\$453 51</u>

Windsor and Windham Counties collection by Rev. Jno. Orcutt.
Other remittances from the treasurer and from individuals, to the parent Society, \$205 00.



