

THE
INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC

OF

LIBERIA;

**ITS CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE;
ADDRESS OF THE COLONISTS TO THE FREE PEOPLE
OF COLOR IN THE UNITED STATES,**

WITH OTHER DOCUMENTS;

ISSUED CHIEFLY FOR THE USE OF THE FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR.

PHILADELPHIA:

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1848.

HYMNS

THE CELEBRATION AT MONROVIA, (LIBERIA,) ON THE TWENTY-
FOURTH OF AUGUST, 1847. [See page 14.]

Tune—*Coronation.*
[Lines by Mrs. C. Ellis, of Monrovia.]
The nations—now to Thee
We commend;
Our helper, ever be
Median and her friend.
Thee that our eyes have seen
Star on us rise;
Thy prayers and toils have been
Given to the skies.
Deliver us, Lord, from every foe,
And plenty bless;
Our race, indeed, may know
Land of rest.
In a band of love—
In truth, and Thee;
Liberia ever prove
Of Liberty.

Tune—*Olivet.*
[Lines by H. Teage, of Monrovia.]
On every tuneful string,
God loud praises bring,
Take heart and tongue;
In strains of melody,
In choral harmony
—for the oppressed are free;
Take cheerful song.
Mesurado's height,
Illumed with new-born light;
Behold the lone star;
As it ascends the skies,
The deep darkness flies,
The new-born glories rise
And shine afar.
The life-creating ray—
Proclaim approaching day;
Throw wide thy blaze—
From savage Hottentot—
From Asman from his cot—
The nations long forgot,
Stonish'd gaze.
At the loud jubilee,
The once more is free—
Break forth with joy;
Nilus' fettered tongue,
Niger join the song,
Congo's loud and long,
Loud strains employ.

Star in the East shine forth,
Proclaim a nation's birth;
Ye nations hear—
This is our natal day,
And we our homage pay;
To Thee, O Lord, we pray;
Lord hear our prayer.
All hail, Liberia! hail!
Favor'd of God, all hail!—
Hail happy band!
From virtue ne'er remove;
By peace, and truth, and love,
And wisdom from above,
So shalt thou stand.

Tune—*Sabbath.*
[Lines by J. S. Payne, of Monrovia.]
'Tis but right that we should bring
Our best praises to our King—
To the God of equal love,
Who hath call'd us from above—
None beside Him have we here,
With Him none to us so dear;
He hath seen our helpless state,
In his time vouchsafed us aid.
By His guidance we have come
To the land of freedom's sons,
Land where our ancestors lie—
Land bequeathed us from on high,
Here with ease and joy we meet,
Worship at our Saviour's feet;
Give we Him the tribute due,
And devote our hearts anew.
Love of liberty brought us here;
Nothing to our hearts so dear;
Here, thank God, we find the gem;
None for it with us contend.
Hence, O Lord, we Thee adore
It becomes us so to do;
May we ne'er unfaithful be,
Never turn our hearts from Thee.
Oh, thou God of nations all,
Hear whene'er we on Thee call,
May this young Republic be,
Mindful of her trust in Thee.
Bless, preserve, and her defend,
Knowledge, skill, and virtue send;
Let from her the gospel light
Pierce the gloom of Afric's night.

CONSTITUTION, &c.

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1.—DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

The end of the institution, maintenance, and administration of government, is to secure the existence of the body politic, to protect it, and to furnish the individuals, who compose it, with the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquillity, their natural rights, and the blessings of life; and whenever these great objects are not obtained, the people have a right to alter the government and to take measures necessary for their safety, prosperity, and happiness.

Therefore, we the people of the Commonwealth of Liberia in Africa, acknowledging with devout gratitude the goodness of God, in granting to us the blessings of the Christian religion, and political, religious and civil liberty, do, in order to secure these blessings for ourselves and our posterity, and to establish justice, insure domestic peace, and promote the general welfare, hereby solemnly associate and constitute ourselves a free, sovereign, and independent state, by the name of the Republic of Liberia, and do ordain and establish this Constitution, for the government of the same.

Sec. 1. All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights; among which, are the rights of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

Sec. 2. All power is inherent in the people; all free governments are instituted by their authority, and for their benefit, and they have a right to alter and reform the same when their safety and happiness require it.

Sec. 3. All men have a natural and inalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, without obstruction or molestation from others, all persons demeaning themselves peaceably, and not obstructing others in their religious worship, are entitled to the protection of law in the free exercise of their own religion, and no sect of Christians shall have exclusive privileges or

preference over any other sect, but all shall be alike tolerated; and no religious test whatever shall be required as a qualification for civil office, or the exercise of any civil right.

Sec. 4. There shall be no slavery within this Republic. Nor shall any citizen of this Republic, or any person resident therein, deal in slaves, either within or without this Republic directly or indirectly.

Sec. 5. The people have a right at all times, in an orderly and peaceable manner, to assemble and consult upon the common good, to instruct their representatives, and to petition the government or any public functionaries for the redress of grievances.

Sec. 6. Every person injured shall have remedy therefor by due course of law; justice shall be done without denial or delay; and in all cases not arising under martial law or upon impeachment, the parties shall have a right to a trial by jury, and to be heard in person or by counsel, or both.

Sec. 7. No person shall be held to answer for a capital or infamous crime, except in cases of impeachment. Cases arising in the Army and Navy, and petty offences, unless upon presentment by a grand jury; and every person criminally charged shall have a right to be seasonably furnished with a copy of the charge, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor; and to have a speedy, public, and impartial trial by a jury of the vicinity. He shall not be compelled to furnish or give evidence against himself, and no person shall for the same offence be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.

Sec. 8. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, property, or privilege, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land.

Sec. 9. No place shall be searched nor person seized, on a criminal charge or suspicion unless, upon warrant lawfully issued, upon probable cause, supported by oath, or solemn affirmation, specially designating the place or person, and the object of the search.

Sec. 10. Excessive bail shall not be requir-

the fines imposed, nor excessive punishments; nor shall the legislature impair the obligation of contract, rendering any act punishable in which it was not punishable as committed.

Elections shall be by ballot, every citizen, of twenty-one years of age, and of real estate, shall have the right

The people have a right to keep arms for the common defence.—In times of peace, armies are dangerous; they ought not to be maintained, and the militia shall always be held in exact subordination to the civil authority and be gov-

erned. Private property shall not be taken without just compensation.

The powers of this government shall be divided into three distinct departments, legislative, Executive and Judicial, no person belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any of the powers proper to the others. This section shall be construed to include Justices

The liberty of the press is essential to the freedom of a State; it shall not, therefore, be restrained in this

country. Every person shall be free to every person, who shall examine the proceedings of the several branches of government; and no person shall be made to restrain the rights of any person, or the communication of thoughts on any subject, one of the invaluable rights of a citizen may freely speak, write, or publish on any subject, being responsible for the truth or falsity of the same.

No person shall be a representative who has not resided in the county two whole years immediately previous to his election, and who shall not when elected, be an inhabitant of the county, and does not own real estate of not less value than one hundred and fifty dollars in the county in which he resides, and who shall not have attained the age of twenty-three years. The representatives shall be elected biennially, and shall serve two years from the time of their election.

No tax shall be levied, or any duty imposed, or any subsidy, charge, impost, or tax, be established, fixed, laid or levied, or any pretext whatsoever, without the consent of the people, or their representatives.

No person shall be a representative who has not resided in the county two whole years immediately previous to his election, and who shall not when elected, be an inhabitant of the county, and does not own real estate of not less value than one hundred and fifty dollars in the county in which he resides, and who shall not have attained the age of twenty-three years. The representatives shall be elected biennially, and shall serve two years from the time of their election.

When a vacancy occurs in the representation of any county by death, resignation, or otherwise, it shall be filled by a new election.

The house of Representatives shall elect their own speaker and other officers, they shall also have the sole power of impeachment.

The Senate shall consist of two members from Montserrado county, two from Bassa county, two from Sinoe county, and two from each county which may be hereafter incorporated into this republic. No person shall be a Senator who shall not have resided three

years in the county in which he shall be elected, and shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years. The Senate shall be elected biennially, and shall serve two years from the time of their election.

That all prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient securities, unless, for capital offences, when the proof is evident, or presumption great; and the privilege and benefit of the writ of habeas corpus shall be enjoyed in this Republic, in the most free, easy, cheap, expeditious, and ample manner, and shall not be suspended by the legislature, except upon the most urgent and pressing occasions, and for a limited time, not exceeding twelve months.

ARTICLE 2.—LEGISLATIVE POWERS.

Sec. 1. The Legislative power shall be vested in a Legislature of Liberia, and shall consist of two separate branches. A House of Representatives and a Senate, to be styled the Legislature of Liberia; each of which shall have a negative on the other, and the enacting style of their acts, and laws, shall be, "It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled."

Sec. 2. The representatives shall be elected by and for the inhabitants of the several counties of Liberia, and shall be apportioned among the several counties of Liberia as follows:—The county of Montserrado shall have four representatives, the county of Grand Bassa shall have three, and the county of Sinoe, shall have one, and all counties hereafter which shall be admitted in the Republic shall have one representative, and for every ten thousand inhabitants one representative shall be added.—No person shall be a representative who has not resided in the county two whole years immediately previous to his election, and who shall not when elected, be an inhabitant of the county, and does not own real estate of not less value than one hundred and fifty dollars in the county in which he resides, and who shall not have attained the age of twenty-three years. The representatives shall be elected biennially, and shall serve two years from the time of their election.

Sec. 3. When a vacancy occurs in the representation of any county by death, resignation, or otherwise, it shall be filled by a new election.

Sec. 4. The house of Representatives shall elect their own speaker and other officers, they shall also have the sole power of impeachment.

Sec. 5. The Senate shall consist of two members from Montserrado county, two from Bassa county, two from Sinoe county, and two from each county which may be hereafter incorporated into this republic. No person shall be a Senator who shall not have resided three

whole years immediately previous to his election in the Republic of Liberia, and who shall not when elected, be an inhabitant of the county which he represents, and who does not own real estate of not less value than two hundred dollars in the county which he represents, and who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years. The Senator for each county who shall have the highest number of votes shall retain his seat four years, and the one who shall have the next highest number of votes two years, and all who are afterwards elected to fill their seats, shall remain in office four years.

Sec. 6. The Senate shall try all impeachments; the senators being first sworn, or solemnly affirmed to try the same impartially, and according to law, and no person shall be convicted but by the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators present. Judgment in such cases shall not extend beyond removal from office, and disqualification to hold an office in the Republic, but the party may still be tried at law for the same offence.

When either the President or Vice President is to be tried, the Chief Justice shall preside.

Sec. 7. It shall be the duty of the Legislature as soon as conveniently may be after the adoption of this constitution, and once at least in every ten years afterwards, to cause a true census to be taken of each town and county of the Republic of Liberia, and a representative shall be allowed every town having a population of ten thousand inhabitants, and for every additional ten thousand in the counties after the first census, one representative shall be added to that county until the number of representatives shall amount to thirty, afterwards one representative shall be added for every thirty thousand.

Sec. 8. Each branch of the legislature shall be judge of the election returns, and qualifications of its own members. A majority of each shall be necessary to transact business, but a less number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members.—Each house may adopt its own rules of proceeding, enforce order, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, may expel a member.

Sec. 9. Neither house shall adjourn for more than two days without the consent of the other; and both houses shall sit in the same town.

Sec. 10. Every bill or resolution which shall have passed both branches of the Legislature, shall before it becomes a law be laid before the President for his approval. If he approves, he shall sign it, if not, he shall return it to the Legislature with his objections—if the Legislature shall afterwards pass the bill or resolution by a vote of two-thirds in each branch, it shall become a law. If the President shall neglect to return such bill or resolution to the Legislature with his objections for five days after the same shall have been so laid before

him—the Legislature remaining in session during that time, such neglect shall be equivalent to his signature.

Sec. 11. The Senators and Representatives shall receive from the Republic a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law; and shall be privileged from arrest except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace, while attending at, going to, or returning from the session of the Legislature.

ARTICLE 3.—EXECUTIVE POWER.

Sec. 1. The Supreme Executive Power, shall be vested in a President, who shall be elected by the people; and shall hold his office for the term of two years. He shall be Commander-in-Chief, of the army and navy. He shall, in the recess of the Legislature, have power to call out the Militia or any portion thereof, into actual service in defence of the Republic. He shall have power to make treaties, provided the Senate concur therein, by a vote of two-thirds of the senators present. He shall nominate, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint and commission all Ambassadors and other public Ministers and Consuls, Secretaries of State, of War, of the Navy, and of the Treasury, Attorney Generals, all Judges of Courts, Sheriffs, Coroners, Marshals, Justices of the Peace, Clerks of Courts, Registers, Notaries Public, and all other officers of state, civil and military, whose appointment may not be otherwise provided for by the Constitution, or by standing laws. And in the recess of the senate, he may fill any vacancies in those offices, until the next session of the Senate. He shall receive all ambassadors and other public ministers. He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed. He shall inform the Legislature from time to time, of the condition of the Republic, and recommend any public measures for their adoption which he may think expedient. He may after conviction, remit any public forfeitures and penalties, and grant reprieves and pardons for public offences, except in cases of impeachment. He may require information and advice from any public officer, touching matters pertaining to his office. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the Legislature, and may adjourn the two houses, whenever they cannot agree as to the time of adjournment.

Sec. 2. There shall be a Vice President who shall be elected in the same manner, and for the same term as that of the President, and whose qualifications shall be the same; he shall be president of the Senate, and give the casting vote when the house is equally divided on any subject. And in case of the removal of the President from office, or his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office; the same shall devolve on the Vice President; and the Legislature may by law provide for the case of removal,

death, resignation or inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall keep the records of the state, and all the records and papers of the legislative body, and all other public records and documents, not belonging to any other department, and shall lay the same when required, before the President or Legislature. He shall attend upon them when required, and perform such other duties as may be enjoined by law.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Treasury, or other persons who may by law, be charged with the custody of the public moneys, shall before he receive such moneys, give bonds to the state, with sufficient sureties, to the acceptance of the Legislature, for the faithful discharge of his trust. He shall exhibit a true account of such moneys when required by the President or Legislature; and no moneys shall be drawn from the Treasury, but by warrant from the President, in consequence of appropriation made by law.

Sec. 5. All Ambassadors and other Public Ministers, and Consuls, the Secretary of State, of War, of the Treasury and of the Navy, the Attorney General, and Post Master General, shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the President. All justices of the peace, sheriffs, coroners, marshals, clerks of courts, registers, and notaries public, shall hold their offices for the term of two years, from the date of their respective commissions, but may be removed from office within that time by the President at his pleasure, and all other officers whose term of office may not be otherwise limited by law, shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the President.

Sec. 6. Every civil officer may be removed from office by impeachment, for official misconduct. Every such officer may also be removed by the President, upon the address of both branches of the Legislature stating the particular reasons for his removal.

Sec. 7. No person shall be eligible to the office of President, who has not been a citizen of this Republic for at least five years, and shall not have attained the age of thirty-five years; and who shall not be possessed of unincumbered real estate, of not less value than six hundred dollars.

Sec. 8. The President shall at stated times receive for his services a compensation which shall neither be increased nor diminished, during the period for which he shall have been elected. And before he enters on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation.

I do solemnly swear, (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the Republic of Liberia, and will to the best of my ability preserve protect and defend the

Constitution and enforce the Laws of the Republic of Liberia.

ARTICLE 4. JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Sec. 1. The Judicial power of this Republic shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and such subordinate courts as the Legislature may from time to time establish. The Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Judges of Courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, but may be removed by the President, on the address of two-thirds of both houses for that purpose, or by impeachment and conviction thereon. The Judges shall have salaries established by law, which may be increased but not diminished during their continuance in office. They shall not receive any other perquisites or emoluments whatever, from parties or others, on account of any duty required of them.

Sec. 2. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases affecting ambassadors or other public ministers and consuls, and those to which the Republic shall be a party. In all other cases the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Legislature shall from time to time make.

ARTICLE 5.—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Sec. 1. All laws now in force in the Commonwealth of Liberia and not repugnant to this Constitution, shall be in force as the laws of the Republic of Liberia, until they shall be repealed by the Legislature.

Sec. 2. All judges magistrates, and other officers now concerned in the administration of justice in the Commonwealth of Liberia, and all other existing civil and military officers therein shall continue to hold and discharge their respective offices in the name and by the authority of the Republic, until others shall be appointed and commissioned in their stead pursuant to this Constitution.

Sec. 3. All towns and municipal corporations within this Republic, constituted under the laws of the Commonwealth of Liberia, shall retain their existing organizations and privileges, and the respective officers thereof shall remain in office and act under the authority of this Republic, in the same manner and with the like powers as they now possess under the laws of said Commonwealth.

Sec. 4. The first election of President, Vice President, Senators and Representatives, shall be held on the first Tuesday in October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-seven in the same manner as elections of members of the Council are chosen in the Commonwealth of Liberia, and the votes shall be certified and returned to the Colonial Secretary and the result of the election shall be ascertained, posted and notified by him as is now by law provided in case of such members of Council.

Sec. 5. All other elections of President, Vice President, Senators and Representatives, shall be held in the respective towns on the first Tuesday in May in every two years, to be held and regulated in such manner as the Legislature may by law prescribe. The returns of votes shall be made to the Secretary of State who, shall open the same, and forthwith issue notices of the election to the persons apparently so elected Senators and Representatives; and all such returns shall be by him laid before the Legislature at its next ensuing session, together with a list of the names of the persons who appear by such returns to have been elected senators and representatives; and the persons appearing by said returns to be duly elected shall proceed to organize themselves accordingly as the Senate and House of Representatives. The votes for President shall be sorted, counted, and declared by the House of Representatives. And if no person shall appear to have a majority of such votes, the Senators and Representatives present, shall in convention, by joint ballot, elect from among the persons having the three highest number of votes, a person to act as President for the ensuing term.

Sec. 6. The Legislature shall assemble once at least in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in January, unless a different day shall be appointed by law.

Sec. 7. Every legislator and other officer appointed under this Constitution, shall before he enters upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe a solemn oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of this Republic, and faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of such office. The presiding officer of the Senate shall administer such oath or affirmation to the President, in convention of both houses; and the President shall administer the same to the Vice President, to the Senators, and to the Representatives in like manner. If the President is unable to attend, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, may administer the oath or affirmation to him, at any place, and also to the Vice President, Senators and Representatives, in convention. Other officers may take such oath or affirmation before the President, Chief Justice, or any other person who may be designated by law.

Sec. 8. All elections of public officers shall be made by a majority of the votes, except in cases otherwise regulated by the constitution or by law.

Sec. 9. Offices created by this Constitution which the present circumstances of the Republic do not require that they shall be filled, shall not be filled until the Legislature shall deem it necessary.

Sec. 10. The property of which a woman may be possessed at the time of her marriage and also that of which she may afterwards become possessed, otherwise than by her husband

shall not be held responsible for his debts, whether contracted before or after marriage.

Nor shall the property thus intended to be secured to the woman be alienated otherwise than by her free and voluntary consent, and such alienation may be made by her either by sale devise or otherwise.

Sec. 11. In all cases in which estates are insolvent the widow shall be entitled to one third of the real estate during her natural life, and to one third of the personal estate, which she shall hold in her own right, subject to alienation by her, by devise or otherwise.

Sec. 12. No person shall be entitled to hold real estate in this Republic unless he be a citizen of the same. Nevertheless this article shall not be construed to apply to Colonization, Missionary, Educational, or other benevolent institutions, so long as the property or estate is applied to its legitimate purposes.

Sec. 13. The great object of forming these Colonies being to provide a home for the dispersed and oppressed children of Africa, and to regenerate and enlighten this benighted continent, none but persons of Color shall be admitted to citizenship in this Republic.

Sec. 14. The purchase of any land by any citizen or citizens from the aborigines of this country, for his, or their own use, or for the benefit of others, as estate or estates in fee simple, shall be considered null and void to all intents and purposes.

Sec. 15. The improvement of the native tribes and their advancement in the arts of agriculture and husbandry being a cherished object of this government, it shall be the duty of the President to appoint in each county some discreet person whose duty it shall be to make regular and periodical tours through the country for the purpose of calling the attention of the natives to these wholesome branches of industry, and of instructing them in the same; and the legislature shall, as soon as can conveniently be done make provision for these purposes by the appropriation of money.

Sec. 16. The existing regulations of the American Colonization Society, in the Commonwealth, relative to emigrants, shall remain the same in the Republic, until regulated by compact between the Society and the Republic, nevertheless the Legislature shall make no law prohibiting emigration. And it shall be among the first duties of the Legislature to take measures to arrange the future relations between the American Colonization Society and this Republic.

Sec. 17. This Constitution may be altered whenever two-thirds of both branches of the Legislature shall deem it necessary. In which case the alterations or amendments shall first be considered and approved by the Legislature, by the concurrence of two thirds of the members of each branch, and afterwards by them submitted to the people, and adopted by two-

thirds of all the electors at the next biennial meeting for the election of Senators and Representatives.

DONE IN CONVENTION, at Monrovia in the County of Montserrado, by the unanimous consent of the people of the Commonwealth of Liberia, this twenty-sixth day of July, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-seven and of the REPUBLIC the First. In witness whereof we have hereto set our names.

S. BENEDICT, *President.*

J. N. LEWIS,

H. TEAGE,

BEVERLY R. WILSON,

ELIJAH JOHNSON,

J. B. GRIPON,

JOHN DAY,

A. W. GARDNER,

AMOS HERRING,

EPHRAIM TITLER,

R. E. MURRAY,

} Montserrado
County.

} Grand Bassa
County.

} County of Sinoe.

J. W. PROUT,

Secretary of Convention.

Monrovia, July 29th, 1847.

IN CONVENTION.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

We the representatives of the people of the Commonwealth of Liberia, in Convention assembled, invested with authority for forming a new government, relying upon the aid and protection of the Great Arbiter of human events, do hereby, in the name, and on the behalf of the people of this Commonwealth, publish and declare the said Commonwealth a FREE, SOVEREIGN, AND INDEPENDENT STATE, by the name and title of the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

While announcing to the nations of the world the new position which the people of this Republic have felt themselves called upon to assume, courtesy to their opinion seems to demand a brief accompanying statement of the causes which induced them, first to expatriate themselves from the land of their nativity and to form settlements on this barbarous coast, and now to organize their government by the assumption of a sovereign and independent character. Therefore we respectfully ask their attention to the following facts.

We recognise in all men, certain natural and inalienable rights: among these are life, liberty, and the right to acquire, possess, enjoy and defend property. By the practice and consent of men in all ages, some system or form of government is proven to be necessary to exercise, enjoy and secure those rights; and every people have a right to institute a government, and to choose and adopt that system or form of it, which in their opinion will most effectually accomplish these objects, and secure their happiness, which does not interfere with the just rights of others. The right therefore to institute government, and to all the powers

necessary to conduct it, is, an inalienable right, and cannot be resisted without the grossest injustice.

We the people of the Republic of Liberia were originally the inhabitants of the United States of North America.

In some parts of that country, we were debarred by law from all the rights and privileges of men—in other parts, public sentiment, more powerful than law, frowned us down.

We were every where shut out from all civil office.

We were excluded from all participation in the government.

We were taxed without our consent.

We were compelled to contribute to the resources of a country, which gave us no protection.

We were made a separate and distinct class, and against us every avenue to improvement was effectually closed. Strangers from all lands of a color different from ours, were preferred before us.

We uttered our complaints, but they were unattended to, or only met by alledging the peculiar institutions of the country.

All hope of a favorable change in our country was thus wholly extinguished in our bosoms, and we looked with anxiety abroad for some asylum from the deep degradation.

The Western coast of Africa was the place selected by American benevolence and philanthropy, for our future home. Removed beyond those influences which depressed us in our native land, it was hoped we would be enabled to enjoy those rights and privileges, and exercise and improve those faculties, which the God of nature has given us in common with the rest of mankind.

Under the auspices of the American Colonization Society, we established ourselves here, on land acquired by purchase from the Lords of the soil.

In an original compact with this Society, we, for important reasons delegated to it certain political powers; while this institution stipulated that whenever the people should become capable of conducting the government, or whenever the people should desire it, this institution would resign the delegated power, peaceably withdraw its supervision, and leave the people to the government of themselves.

Under the auspices and guidance of this institution, which has nobly and in perfect faith redeemed its pledges to the people, we have grown and prospered.

From time to time, our number has been increased by migration from America, and by accessions from native tribes; and from time to time, as circumstances required it, we have extended our borders by acquisition of land by honorable purchase from the natives of the country.

As our territory has extended, and our population increased, our commerce has also in-

creased. The flags of most of the civilized nations of the earth float in our harbors, and their merchants are opening an honorable and profitable trade. Until recently, these visits have been of a uniformly harmonious character, but as they have become more frequent, and to more numerous points of our extending coast, questions have arisen, which it is supposed can be adjusted only by agreement between sovereign powers.

For years past, the American Colonization Society has virtually withdrawn from all direct and active part in the administration of the government, except in the appointment of the Governor, who is also a colonist, for the apparent purpose of testing the ability of the people to conduct the affairs of government, and no complaint of crude legislation; nor of mismanagement, nor of mal-administration has yet been heard.

In view of these facts, this institution, the American Colonization Society, with that good faith which has uniformly marked all its dealings with us, did, by a set of resolutions in January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Six, dissolve all political connexion with the people of this Republic, return the power with which it was delegated, and left the people to the government of themselves.

The people of the Republic of Liberia then, are of right, and in fact, a free, sovereign and independent State; possessed of all the rights, powers, and functions of government.

In assuming the momentous responsibilities of the position they have taken, the people of this Republic, feel justified by the necessities of the case, and with this conviction they throw themselves with confidence upon the candid consideration of the civilized world.

Liberia is not the offspring of grasping ambition, nor the tool of avaricious speculation.

No desire for territorial aggrandizement brought us to these shores; nor do we believe so sordid a motive entered into the high considerations of those who aided us in providing this asylum.

Liberia is an asylum from the most grinding oppression.

In coming to the shores of Africa, we indulged the pleasing hope that we would be permitted to exercise and improve those faculties, which impart to man his dignity—to nourish in our hearts the flame of honorable ambition, to cherish and indulge those aspirations, which a beneficent Creator had implanted in every human heart, and to evince to all who despise, ridicule and oppress our race, that we possess with them a common nature, are with them susceptible of equal refinement, and capable of equal advancement in all that adorns and dignifies man.

We were animated with the hope, that here we should be at liberty to train up our children in the way they should go—to inspire

them with the love of an honorable fame, to kindle within them, the flame of a lofty philanthropy, and to form strong within them, the principles of humanity, virtue and religion.

Among the strongest motives to leave our native land—to abandon forever the scenes of our childhood, and to sever the most endeared connexions, was the desire for a retreat where, free from the agitations of fear and molestation, we could, in composure and security approach in worship; the God of our fathers.

Thus far our highest hopes have been realized.

Liberia is already the happy home of thousands, who were once the doomed victims of oppression, and if left unmolested to go on with her natural and spontaneous growth; if her movements be left free from the paralyzing intrigues of jealous, ambitious; and unscrupulous avarice, she will throw open a wider and yet a wider door for thousands, who are now looking with an anxious eye for some land of rest.

Our courts of justice are open equally to the stranger and the citizen for the redress of grievances, for the remedy of injuries, and for the punishment of crime.

Our numerous and well attended schools attest our efforts, and our desire for the improvement of our children.

Our churches for the worship of our Creator, every where to be seen, bear testimony to our piety, and to our acknowledgment of His Providence.

The native African bowing down with us before the altar of the living God, declare that from us, feeble as we are, the light of Christianity has gone forth, while upon that curse of curses, the slave trade, a deadly blight has fallen as far as our influence extends.

Therefore in the name of humanity, and virtue and religion—in the name of the Great God, our common Creator, and our common Judge, we appeal to the nations of Christendom, and earnestly and respectfully ask of them, that they will regard us with the sympathy and friendly consideration, to which the peculiarities of our condition entitle us, and to extend to us, that comity which marks the friendly intercourse of civilized and independent communities.

Fellow Citizens:

Having finished our labors, we now have the honor of submitting to your consideration, through the Governor, that Constitution which in our opinion will best suit the peculiar circumstances of the people of this infant Republic. That our labors will meet the full approbation of every individual citizen, is scarcely to be expected; we trust, however, that a large majority of our fellow citizens, will approve our doings, and adopt the Constitution herewith submitted.

In our deliberations, we endeavored to keep our minds steadily fixed upon the great objects of civil government, and have done what we conceived to be best for the general interests of this rising Republic. We endeavored carefully to arrange every subject that might possibly arise, calculated to disturb in the least the friendly feeling which now so happily subsists between the different counties of the Republic. We felt deeply the importance and magnitude of the work submitted to our hands, and have done the very best we could in order to afford general satisfaction.

In view of the peculiarity of our circumstances, the new position we have assumed, is indeed a gigantic one, and the government now calls to its support, every citizen who is at all concerned for the safety, and future prosperity of this our only home.

Knowing however, that our cause is just, we feel encouraged, and believe that under God, by a steady perseverance, we shall fully succeed.

In publishing to the world our Independence, we have thought proper, to accompany that document, with a declaration of the causes which induced us to leave the land of our nativity, and to form settlements on this coast, and also to appeal to the sympathies of all civilized nations; soliciting their aid and protection, and especially that they would, notwithstanding our peculiar circumstances, speedily recognise our Independence.

And that the flag of this Republic at no distant day may be seen floating upon every breeze, and in every land respected.

It is our earnest desire that the affairs of this government may be so conducted as to merit the approbation of all Christendom, and restore to Africa her long lost glory, and that Liberia under the guidance of Heaven may continue a happy asylum for our long oppressed race, and a blessing to the benighted and degraded natives of this vast peninsula. To secure which is our ardent wish and prayer.

With great respect we have the honor of being your obedient and humble servants.

By the unanimous order of the Convention.

SAMUEL BENEDICT, *President.*

ADDRESS OF THE COLONISTS TO THE FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE U. S.

At a numerous meeting of the citizens of Monrovia, held in the Court House, on the 27th of August, for the purpose of considering the expediency of uniting in an address to the colored people of the United States, John H. Folks in the chair, it was

Resolved, That a committee of five persons be appointed to frame a circular address, to be published in the United States, for the better information of the people of color in that country respecting the state of this colony and the condition of the settlers.

Tuesday, September 4.—The committee reported the following address, which was adopted:—

As much speculation and uncertainty continue to prevail among the people of color in the United States, respecting our situation and prospects in Africa, and many misrepresentations have been put in circulation there; of a nature slanderous to us, and, in their effects, injurious to them, we feel it our duty, by a true statement of our circumstances, to endeavor to correct them.

The first consideration which caused our voluntary removal to this country, and the object which we still regard with the deepest concern is liberty—liberty in the sober, simple, but complete sense of the word; not a licentious liberty, nor a liberty without government, or which should place us without the restraint of salutary laws; but that liberty of speech and conscience which distinguishes the free enfranchised citizens of a free State. We did not enjoy that freedom in our native country; and from causes which, as respects ourselves, we shall soon forget forever, were we certain it was not there attainable for ourselves or our children. This, then, being the first object of our pursuit in coming to Africa, is probably the first subject on which you will ask for information; and we must truly declare to you that our expectations and hopes, in this respect, have been realized. Our constitution secures to us, so far as our condition allows, "all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens of the United States, and these rights and privileges are ours. We are proprietors of the soil we live on, and possess the rights of freeholders. Our suffrages; and what is of more importance, our sentiments and our opinions, have their due weight in the government we live under. Our laws are altogether our own; they grow out of our circumstances, are framed for our exclusive benefit, and administered by officers of our own appointment, and as such possess our confidence. We have a judiciary chosen from among ourselves; we serve as jurors in the trial of others, and are liable to be tried only by juries of our fellow-citizens ourselves. We have all that is meant by *liberty of conscience*. The time and mode of worshipping God, as prescribed to us in His word, and dictated by our conscience, we are not only free to follow, but are protected in following.

Forming a community of our own in the land of our forefathers, having the commerce, and the soil, and the resources of the country at our disposal, we know nothing of that debasing inferiority with which our very color stamped us in America. There is nothing here to create the feeling of caste—nothing to cherish the feeling of superiority in the minds of foreigners who visit us. It is this moral emancipation, this liberty of the mind! from worse than iron fetters, that repays us ten thousand

times over for all that it has cost us, and makes us grateful to God and our American patrons for the happy change which has taken place in our situation. We are not so self-complacent as to rest satisfied with our improvement, either as regards our minds or our circumstances. We do not expect to remain stationary—far from it. But we certainly feel ourselves for the first time, in a state to enjoy either to any purpose. The burden is gone from our shoulders.

We now breathe and move freely, and know not (in surveying your present state) for which to pity you most, the empty name of liberty which you endeavor to content yourselves with, in a country that is not yours, or the delusion which makes you hope for ampler privileges in that country hereafter. Tell us which is the white man, who, with a prudent regard for his own character, can associate with one of you on terms of equality? Ask us, which is the white man who would decline such association with one of our number, whose intellectual and moral qualities are not an objection? To both these questions, we unhesitatingly make the same answer—there is no such white man.

We solicit none of you to emigrate to this country; for we know not who among you prefers rational independence, and the honest respect of his fellow-men, to that mental sloth and careless poverty which you already possess, and your children will inherit after you in America. But if your views and aspirations rise a degree higher, if your minds are not as servile as your present condition, we can decide the question at once; and with confidence say that you will bless the day, and your children after you, when you determined to become citizens of Liberia.

But we do not hold this language on the blessings of liberty for the purpose of consoling ourselves for the sacrifice of health, or the sufferings of want, in consequence of our removal to Africa. We enjoy health, after a few months' residence in this country, as uniformly and in as perfect a degree as we possessed that blessing in our native country; and a distressing scarcity of provisions, or any of the necessities of life, has of late, been entirely unknown, even to the poorest persons in this community. On these points, there are, and have been much misconception and some malicious misrepresentations in the United States.

The true character of the African climate is not well understood in other countries. Its inhabitants are as robust, as healthy, as long-lived, to say the least, as those of any other country. Nothing like an epidemic has ever appeared in this colony; nor can we learn from the natives, that the calamity of a sweeping sickness ever yet visited this part of the continent. But the change from a temperate to a tropical country is a great one—too great not to affect the health more or less, and in the cases of old people and very young people it often causes death. In the early years of the

colony, want of good houses, the great fatigues and dangers of the settlers, their irregular mode of living, and the hardships and discouragements they met with, greatly helped the other causes of sickness, which prevailed to an alarming extent, and were attended with great mortality. But we look back to those times as a season of trial long past, and nearly forgotten. Our houses and circumstances are now comfortable; and for the last two or three years not one person in forty, from the Middle and Southern States, has died from the change of climate.

But you may say that even health and freedom, as good as they are, are still dearly paid for, when they cost you the common blessings of life, and expose your wife and children to famine, and all the evils of want and poverty. We do not dispute the soundness of this conclusion either; but we utterly deny that it has any application to the people of Liberia.

Away with all the false notions that are circulating about the barrenness of this country; they are the observations of such ignorant and designing men as would injure both it and you. A more fertile soil, and a more productive country, so far as it is cultivated, there is not, we believe, on the face of the earth. Its hills and its plains are covered with a verdure which never fades; the productions of nature keep on in their growth through all the seasons of the year. Even the natives of the country, almost without farming tools; without skill and with very little labor, make more grain and vegetables than they can consume, and often more than they can sell.

Cattle, swine, fowl, duck, goats, and sheep, thrive without feeding, requiring no care but to keep them from straying. Cotton, coffee, indigo, and the sugar-cane, are all the spontaneous growth of our forests, and may be cultivated at pleasure, to any extent, by such as are disposed. The same may be said of rice, Indian corn, Guinea corn, millet, and too many species of fruit to enumerate. Add to all this, we have no dreary winter here, for one-half of the year, to destroy the products of the other half of the year. Nature is constantly renewing herself, and is also constantly pouring her treasures, all the year round in the laps of the industrious. We could say on this subject more; but we are afraid of exciting too highly the hopes of the imprudent. Such persons, we think will do well to keep their rented cellars, and earn their twenty-five cents a day at their wheelbarrow, in the commercial towns of America, and stay where they are. It is only the industrious and virtuous that we can point to independence, and plenty, and happiness, in this country. Such people are sure to attain, in a very few years, to a style of comfortable living which they may in vain hope for in the United States; and however short we come of this character ourselves, it is only a due acknowledgment of the bounty

of Divine Providence to say that we generally enjoy the good things of this life to our entire satisfaction.

Our trade is chiefly confined to the coast, to the interior parts of the continent, and to foreign vessels. It is already valuable, and fast increasing. It is carried on in the productions of the country, consisting of rice, palm oil, ivory, tortoise shell, dye woods, gold, hides, wax, and a small amount of coffee; and it brings us, in return, the product and manufacture of the four quarters of the world. Seldom, indeed, is our harbor clear of European and American shipping; and the bustle and the thronging of our streets show something already of the activity of the smaller seaports of the United States.

Mechanics, of nearly every trade, are carrying on their various occupations; their wages are high; and a large number would be sure of constant and profitable employment.

Not a child or a youth in the colony but is provided an appropriate school. We have a numerous public library, and a court house, meeting-houses, school-houses, and fortifications sufficient, or nearly so, for the colony, in its present state.

Our houses are constructed of the same materials, and finished in the same style as in the towns of America. We have an abundance of good building stone, shells for lime, and clay of an excellent quality for bricks. Timber is plentiful of various kinds, and fit for all the different purposes of building and fencing.

Truly, we have a goodly heritage; and if there is any thing lacking in the character or condition of the people of this colony, it can never be charged to the account of the country; it must be the fruit of our own mismanagement, or slothfulness, or vices. But from all these evils we confide in Him, to whom we are indebted for all our blessings, to preserve us. It is the topic of our weekly and daily thanksgiving to Almighty God, both in public and private, and He knows with what sincerity, that we were conducted, by His providence, to this shore. Such great favors, in so short a time, and mixed with so few trials, are to be ascribed to nothing but His special blessing. This we acknowledge. We only want the gratitude which such signal favors call for.—Nor are we willing to close this paper, without adding a heartfelt testimonial of the deep obligations we owe to our American patrons and best earthly benefactors, whose wisdom pointed us to this home of our nation, and whose active and persevering benevolence enabled us to reach it. Judge, then, of the feelings with which we hear the motives and doings of the Colonization Society traduced—and that too by men too ignorant to know what that society has already accomplished, too weak to look through its plans and intentions, or too dishonest to acknowledge either. But, without pretending to any prophetic sagacity, we

can certainly predict to that Society the ultimate triumph of their hopes and labors; and disappointment, and defeat to those who oppose them. Men may theorize and speculate upon their plans in America, but there can be no speculation here. The cheerful abodes of civilization and happiness which are scattered over this verdant mountain—the flourishing settlements which are spreading around it—the sound of Christian instruction, and scenes of Christian worship, which are heard and seen in this land of brooding pagan darkness—a thousand contented freemen united in founding a new Christian empire, happy themselves, and the instruments of happiness to others—every object, every individual, is an argument, is a demonstration of the wisdom and goodness of the plan of colonization.

LETTER FROM JUDGE BENEDICT
Of Liberia, to a friend.

Monrovia, Oct. 16th, 1847.

Respected Sir,—

Your very excellent letter of May 26th, reached here from Sierra Leone about two weeks ago, through the kindness of the Captain of a French man-of-war. I need not mention, as I often have done, that your letters are a *rich treat*, not only to myself but to many here, as I make it a point to read friendly letters, or papers, to such persons as I think appreciate them, but who are not blessed to have proper correspondents; I rejoice that I have been so *fortunate* as to form *acquaintance with such a true friend as yourself*. I only regret that my lack of education, means, and enterprise, disqualify me from carrying out your wishes more fully in this favored land of my adoption. I can but repeat what I have very often said and written, that I bless the day when our colonization friends first thought upon the plan and found the country which bears the appropriate appellation of Liberia; and rejoice that it ever entered my brain, to accept of the kind offer of emigrating to it. I am well pleased with my choice, therefore care not a straw for all that the *antis* can say or write against us. I believe, fully that we have not done as much to improve Liberia, *as we ought*, but every considerate person will admit, that much has been done. I think that now our National Independence is declared, our Constitution adopted, officers elected, &c. that things will change for the better, although we labor under serious disadvantages, principally from the want of suitable men. At present, we have a large growth of young people, some of excellent promise; therefore this difficulty will not long prevail. This nation, as I must now call it, will go on, if we never have any more from abroad. But I entertain hopes of better things from our colored friends in the United States. From letters which I received

lately, both from the North and the South, there appears to be a more friendly feeling toward us, together with a free spirit of inquiry.

Besides this, one of the principal obstructions, as it was said, is now removed. That was the sovereignty which the A. C. Society held over us. I know well that this was the objection of several men of color in the United States. I know too, that the ordeal of acclimation, which all must more or less pass through, is the fear of many. This is truly to be (and is much) regretted; yet cannot the colored race imitate the whites in this particular, and fearlessly leave any place however dear, where they are not wanted, and where, from numerical strength, with every other advantage combined against them, they cannot see any reasonable hope of a change for the better. I answer yes! I would leave any place on this green earth where I had to labor under so many disabilities, and risk my life, as other worthies have done, to obtain true freedom, such as the colored man can enjoy nowhere so well as in Liberia, or in Hayti.—Nought but the want of means prevents me from visiting England, also the U. States.—Governor Roberts who is now President elect, purposes visiting England next year.

Did my letter ever reach you in which my thanks were tendered for your gift of Dr. Alexander's History of African Colonization? (If not, please accept my thanks now.) I consider it an invaluable work, and hope the author will be blessed with long life on earth, and Heaven afterwards. Being the only copy here at the time, I loaned it to many who read it with great avidity, and it has afforded much satisfaction to all.

As you have been always kind to me, and willing to do what you can for myself and Liberia, may I intrude further on you, by asking you in case there should be a sale at any time of books, such as would assist us in government, viz. on Diplomacy, Law, reported causes, &c. with any thing you think proper. If you see such and buy them low for me, I will remit the money as soon as possible. Now Sir, I do not expect this without paying for them, as your repeated kindness has cost you much already. Our true friend Professor Greenleaf has made me presents of a few valuable works, but I find much deficiency at times. I wish particularly Starkie on Slander, any of the works of Sir Matthew Hale, Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws, Wheaton's Reports, &c., but I understand they are high. If so, I must dispense with them for the present.—Tried cases, Burr's Trials, with any old tracts &c. I feasted on the newspapers which you kindly sent me some time ago. Although old to you in large cities, there are many things new to us.

By the Packet I will try and send you some

of my new crop of coffee. I hardly know what to send, notwithstanding I believe any thing, however trifling, would be acceptable to our friends in America.

Whatever little thing I send you, do distribute them to friends gratuitously. Ask nothing for me in return, for I owe them much which I know I shall never be able to pay but with gratitude. Respecting the books you inquired about, Governor Roberts said he read them and sent them on sometime since to Rev. A. P. Davis as they were directed to him. Both myself and family are quite well.

I send you a copy of our new Constitution. I remain, dear Sir, your obt. servant.

S. BENEDICT.

From the Liberia Herald.

THE CONSTITUTION—RELATIONS WITH THE A. C. SOCIETY.

This act upon which the people of these colonies have been forced by stern necessity, is pregnant with weal or wo; and should be regarded as the first in a series which conducts infallibly to credit or disgrace.

Apart from the solemnity that must ever attend the act, by which a young community throws off the yoke of its tutelage, and asserts its character of political manhood, there are circumstances attendant upon our case of a most impressive character. These circumstances stand out with a striking prominence upon every page of the history of the colony so obviously as renders it unnecessary that we should mention them. This fact will, in some measure, account for the deep and undefinable sensation which ran through the hall, and almost stilled every bosom, when on the 26th instant, the members in presence of a numerous assembly composed of males and females, advanced one by one to the Secretary's desk to put their names to the Declaration of Independence and Appeal to the nations of Christendom. It seemed like entering upon a new era, the commencement of a new existence—the launching upon an ocean vast in its extent, and unexplored by any whom we can call to the helm.

That man amongst us who does not feel, that by this act he has entered upon a new career; has assumed new responsibilities, and has received a new impetus and a new motive to action, is to be pitied for his blindness, rather than envied for his indifference, and to say the least, he is not yet prepared for extensive usefulness.

We would warn our people against the imputation of supposing that because we have declared ourselves sovereign and independent, therefore we have fulfilled our destiny, and attained the summit of political perfection; and we would also warn them against despondency, in view of any difficulties we may be called

to encounter. Our condition affords no scope for idle enthusiasm, nor for unmanly timidity. All great undertakings are attended with difficulties, and usually demand an effort proportioned to their magnitude. It is of the last importance for us to know where, and by whom this effort is to be made. We need, and if we are wise, we will seek the sympathy and friendly countenance of foreign nations. It will be encouraging to be recognized as forming one in the great community of nations, and to receive the usual comities of that relation; still we must learn to call off all unreasonable expectation from every foreign quarter, and be penetrated with the conviction, that the proper scene of this extraordinary effort is the Republic of Liberia, and the effort itself to be made by us.

On another page will be seen the Declaration of Independence, followed by a brief statement of the causes which have led to that act. The peculiarities of our condition seemed to require some little explanation, which is there attempted to be given. Thus we have fairly launched upon the ocean, expanded our sails to the breeze, trusting to the merits of our cause—to the genius of justice and humanity, and to the guidance of a benignant Providence.

Directly after signing the Declaration of Independence, the following resolutions having been drawn up by a committee appointed for the purpose were presented and unanimously adopted.

Whereas the people of these colonies, after a careful survey of the present exigencies of the state, have thought proper to act upon the suggestions of their friends in America, to withdraw from political relation with the American Colonization Society: We the undersigned, their representatives in Convention assembled, deem the present a proper occasion on which to record the sentiment of the whole people of these colonies, in respect of that institution: Therefore,

Resolved, That we individually and collectively cherish the liveliest gratitude for the American Colonization Society; that we repose undiminished confidence in its disinterestedness and sincere desire for our welfare.

Resolved, That to the guiding and beneficent hand of that institution, we owe all the good which has been accomplished in us individually, and all that is cheering in the prospect which now opens before us as a people.

Resolved, That in the past unwearied labors of its members as well individual as combined, we have a pleasing earnest of their future regard.

Resolved, That we are now, and will remain deeply solicitous to maintain such a friendly feeling and correspondence with the Board of Directors as will enable the society which it represents, as well as the American people at large, to carry out their benevolent designs in regard to the colored people of the United

States, the colony of Liberia, and the continent of Africa.

Resolved, That the Governor be furnished with a copy of these resolutions accompanied with a request that they be forwarded to the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH OF AUGUST.

The dawn of this day was announced to the inhabitants by the thundering of a cannon from Central Fort. At sunrise, the staff intended to bear the testimony of female patriotism and ardor in the cause of Liberia's independence rose and towered proudly in the air, ready to receive the *stripes* and the *star*, which, in the language of one of Liberia's sons, "after ages of wandering, has at length found its orbit." A little afterward, the unusual activity and bustle in the streets—the rattling of drums, and the huzzas of boys testified how heartily all classes and descriptions of people entered into the business for which the day had been set apart. All business was suspended, and all appeared animated by a common sentiment.

At 9 o'clock, A. M., the Governor, with the commissioned and non commissioned officers of the first regiment, assembled at the Court-house, and at the same hour Capt. McGill's company of Light Infantry, and Capt. Barbour's State Fencibles, formed in Broad street. By this time the people were pouring from all quarters in the direction of Government square, and the Government House and piazzas were already crowded to overflowing with ladies. At 11, the companies escorting the Governor, and other officers marched up, and formed a line in front of the Government House, and soon afterward a message was sent to the ladies that His Excellency was ready to receive them. The committee appointed by the ladies to represent them on the occasion, consisting of Mrs. S. E. Lewis, Mrs. M. L. Hunter, Mrs. R. Johnson, Mrs. C. Hazel, Mrs. E. M. Teage, Mrs. C. Ellis, and Mrs. W. N. Yates, descended, bearing the flag, and advanced towards the Governor, who met them a few paces in front of the troops. As soon as the ladies appeared issuing from the door, the line presented arms. Mrs. Lewis presented the flag, accompanied by a neat patriotic speech. At the conclusion of the speech, three cheers went up from the troops and the assembled multitude, which made the welkin ring, while the waving of hats in the streets, and handkerchiefs from the piazzas and windows, testified how heartily every one was pleased. The Governor received the flag with his accustomed gallantry, unfurled it, and handed it to the standard bearer, who, on the present occasion, was Captain F. Payne, of the Monrovia Militia. He then replied, in the best speech we ever heard him make. He briefly adverted to the past history of the co-

lony—noticed the rapidity with which it had advanced, and its present position! acknowledged the pride he felt as representative of the Republic of Liberia, in receiving the flag at the hands of the ladies of Monrovia; assured them on his behalf, and on behalf of his fellow soldiers, it will never be disgraced by cowardice or treachery; and that it shall be preserved among the archives of the Republic, as a testimony of their patriotism to rising generations. Three lusty cheers announced the conclusion of the ceremony—the ladies retired, and the flag with the guards took the centre of the line.

The flag is made of silk. On one side, in the blue field, it bears the motto of the Republic in large letters, thus—over the star “The Love of Liberty”—under it “Brought us Here.” On the other side, is “Republic of Liberia.” The staff is of rose wood, with a gilt head in form of a spear.

At half-past 11, the troops marched up to Central Fort, and formed on the right of the flag staff. The staff is about thirty feet high, and erected on the most elevated spot in the centre of the town. The flag was then detached from the spear, and bent on to the halberds. At 12, the first gun of the national salute sent forth its thunder, when the flag rapidly ascended to its place, and floated on the breeze. At the same moment, a responsive gun was heard from signal hill, and the flag displayed there. A salute of twenty-one guns was then fired—every alternate gun being from signal hill.

As soon as the salute was over, this flag was lowered, and one of bunting raised in its place. The flag was then attached to the spear, took its place in the line, and the whole marched off and halted in front of the Government House. After a halt of a few minutes, the troops marched off escorting the Governor, other officers, and a number of citizens, to the Methodist Church. When they arrived, they found the church already filled to overflowing. The flag of the Republic was stationed on the right of the altar, near Mr. E. Johnson, the Marshal of the day: the left was occupied by a flag and banner of Mr. James' school. These also bore appropriate mottoes. The exercises in the church were conducted in the following order: First, singing. Second, Prayer of supplication, by Rev. Mr. Ellis, of the Presbyterian Church. Third, singing.* Fourth, Reading of the Declaration of Independence, by Hon. J. B. Gripon. Fifth, singing. Sixth, Oration by Rev. J. S. Payne, of the Methodist E. Church. Seventh, singing. Eighth, Prayer of thanksgiving, by H. Teage, of the Baptist Church. Ninth, Doxology. Tenth, Benediction, by Rev. A. D. Williams.

In regard to the oration, as it will be published, we will now merely say, it is a production highly creditable to Liberia, and hon-

orable to the young man who brought it out; and we will all do well to listen to its advice, and act upon its suggestions.

The services in church over, the line was again formed, and marched to Government House, when the companies were dismissed.

At 2 P. M., a number of gentlemen sat down to dinner at Colonel Hicks'. Considering the great dearth of foreign edibles, the dinner was a good one; and if any thing were wanting in the way of table supply, it was more than made good by the determination on all hands to be pleased. About 4, the party retired to gossip and prepare for an evening's entertainment, which the indefatigable Mr. Cary was getting up in the Governor's new building. At half-past seven, about ninety persons, gentlemen and ladies, sat down to supper. Many patriotic toasts were given, and many gallant sentiments were offered, but, be it remembered, they were drunk in the very best and purest *water* which Monrovia affords. The amusements of the evening were increased by a band of music; and after the tables were removed, the guests entertained themselves in conversation until one in the morning, when they retired, well pleased, no doubt, each with himself, and every other. We should not omit to mention, that there were other entertainments on that day, but we can mention the particulars only of those at which we had the good fortune to be present.

In concluding, we feel bold to assert that nothing could excel the good order, decorum, and regularity of the proceedings of the day. Every thing was conducted in the most admirable order. It was a day which will be long remembered. During the ceremony of presenting the flag, many eyes were suffused with tears. And, indeed, who that remembered the past could forbear to weep? Who that looked back to America and remembered what he saw and felt there, could be otherwise than agitated? It is indeed a great undertaking; but that Almighty Being who hath conducted us thus far, can and will conduct us to the goal at which we aim.

Liberia Herald.

FLAG AND SEAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

The following Flag and Seal were adopted by the convention, as the insignia of the Republic of Liberia, and ordered to be employed to mark its nationality.

Flag: six red stripes with five white stripes alternately displayed longitudinally. In the upper angle of the flag, next to the spear, a square blue ground covering in depth five stripes. In the centre of the blue, one white star.

Seal: A dove on the wing with an open scroll in its claws. A view of the ocean with a ship under sail. The sun just emerging from

* The Hymns are printed on the second page.

the waters. A palm tree, and at its base a plow and spade. Beneath the emblems, the words REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, and above the emblems, the national motto, THE LOVE OF LIBERTY BROUGHT US HERE.

The former seal of the Commonwealth is ordered to be used until that for the Republic shall be engraved.

By order of the Convention.

S. BENEDICT, *President.*
[*Liberia Herald.*]

LIBERIA.

EXTENT.—Liberia extends from Digby at the mouth of Poor River, on the north-west, to Cavally River on the south-east, between 4 deg. 20 min and 6 deg. 40 min. north latitude, and 7 deg. 30 min. and 11 deg. west longitude, from Greenwich.

The length of coast between Digby and the Cavally River is about three hundred miles. The territory of Liberia extends from twenty to thirty miles inland. The right of possession and jurisdiction over all this line, (with the exception of Young Sister,) has been purchased by the American and the Maryland Colonization Societies, and further purchases have since been made.

POPULATION.—The inhabitants of Liberia, emigrants from the United States and their children, number three thousand five hundred; and seven hundred occupy the Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas.

To these, may be added, about five hundred natives, civilized and admitted to the privileges of the polls and the rights of citizenship in general.

The natives residing on land owned by the colony, and directly amenable to its laws, are estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000.

The population of the allied tribes in the interior, who are bound by treaty to abstain from the slave trade and other barbarous practices, is not accurately known; but may be estimated at 150,000.

Towns and Settlements.*—Monrovia on the south side of Cape Mesurado, near the north-western boundary of Liberia, is the Capitol and chief place of trade. Population 1000.

The other ports, not counting those in the Maryland Colony, are, Marshall on the Junk River, Edina, Bexley on the St. John's River, Bassa Cove, and Greenville on the Sinoe River.

The more inland towns and their adjoining settlements are Caldwell, New Georgia and Millsburg.

Productions of the Soil.—Coffee, sugar cane, rice, cotton, indigo, Indian corn, potatoes, yams, cassadas, bananas, arrow root and nuts may be produced in any quantity; fruits are various and abundant. These are all grown in Liberia.

Exports.—The chief exports are camwood, palm oil and ivory, to the amount of \$123,-

690 in two years, ending September, 1843, according to official returns. These are brought from the interior.

Imports.—The imports for the two years, as above, amounted to \$157,830.

Religious Aspect.—Churches, 23; Communicants, 1500; of whom, 500 are natives and recaptured Africans.

Education.—Schools, 16; Scholars, 560; of whom, 200 are native Africans. The Sunday-schools embrace a far larger number.

* The statistics of the Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas, are not given in the following statement.

COLONIZATION OFFICE,

Philadelphia, January 25, 1848.

The Pennsylvania Colonization Society solicits the aid of the humane, in effecting the liberation of a large number of slaves, whose freedom is conditional on their going to Liberia at an early day. Fifty dollars is the estimated expense of colonizing an individual, while benevolent planters sacrifice ten-fold that sum in the gratuitous emancipation of each slave. Among those now offered to the Society, there are seventy in Virginia, thirty in Louisiana, and several hundreds in other States, including a number of intelligent coloured persons in our immediate vicinity, whose services would be very useful to the new republic. A part of these poor people who have been bequeathed to our care will lose their freedom, if not colonized next month. On their behalf we earnestly invite the co-operation of the benevolent; especially when so small a sum as fifty dollars, will confer freedom and a freehold in the land of his fathers, on a fellow creature.

Such churches as have delayed their annual collections, will here find strong claims upon their sympathies.

Donations will be gratefully received by our Treasurer, Paul T. Jones, Esq., No. 85 South Front Street, or at the Office, Walnut Street, opposite Washington Square.

ELLIOTT CRESSON,

Corresponding Secretary.

Two ships have since sailed from Baltimore and New Orleans, conveying nearly 200 emigrants to Liberia. The entire cost of these expeditions must yet be raised; and there are pressing applications for the Society to take charge of 368 more. Besides these, about 100 free people of color ask our aid.