

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Colonization Society of the State of Iowa,
WITH THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY,
IN THE CAPITOL, JANUARY 23, 1857.

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IOWA CITY.

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SYLVESTER, HARRISON & BROTHER, PRINTERS.

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CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

ARTICLE 1ST. This Society shall be called "THE COLONIZATION SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF IOWA," auxiliary to the American Colonization Society; and its exclusive object shall be, to Colonize, with their own consent, the free people of color of the United States, in Africa or such other region as Congress shall deem expedient.

ART. 2nd. A yearly subscription of one dollar shall constitute membership; and twenty dollars, membership for life; an honorary election also, or a delegation from any auxiliary society shall also constitute membership. And any local society in this State, which, by its constitution, may send delegates to this State Society, shall be deemed an auxiliary.

ART. 3d. The officers of this Society shall be a President, two or more Vice Presidents, a Board of Directors, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer and an Executive Committee of five Directors.

ART. 4TH. The Directors, (five of whom may constitute a quorum for business,) shall conduct the affairs of the society and meet when they may judge it expedient, or at the call of the Secretaries: and five of which Board of Directors, appointed by the Society, as an Executive Committee, may transact all necessary business between the meetings of the board; of which Board and Executive Committee the Secretaries shall be ex-officio members, and keep the records; but no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, except by order of the Executive Committee.

ART. 5TH. The Annual Meeting shall be at the Capital of the State, on the second Wednesday of December; or at such time and place as the Board of Directors may appoint; when the Directors shall make a report of their proceedings, and the Treasurer shall present a statement of the finances of the Society.

ART. 6TH. This constitution shall be unalterable, except at an annual meeting, and by a vote of two thirds of the members present.

An adjourned meeting of the Colonization Society of the State of Iowa, was held at the Capitol in Iowa City, on the 22d day of January A. D. 1857.

Hon. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, President, being absent, on motion of Rev. SAMUEL STORRS HOWE, Hon. J. C. HALL of Des Moines County, was appointed President pro tem.

Mr. Howe, from the Committee appointed at a previous meeting, to revise the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, reported sundry amendments, which were adopted.

The following officers were then appointed by the Society for the ensuing year :

President—Hon. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, Muscatine.

Vice Presidents—Hon. WM. W. HAMILTON, Dubuque ; Col. THOMAS W. CLAGGETT, Keokuk ; STEWART GOODRELL Esq., Ft. Des Moines.

Directors.—D. W. Kilbourne, Esq., Col. Wm. Patterson and Hon. J. H. Sullivan, Keokuk ; J. C. Hall, M. D. Browning and J. F. Henry, M. D., Burlington ; J. H. Wallace Esq., and Dr. J. S. Horton, Muscatine ; G. C. R. Mitchell Esq., and W. H. F. Gurley, Esq., Davenport ; Hon. Benj. M. Samuels, and Rev. S. Newberry, Dubuque ; Hon. A. Saunders, and J. B. Lash, Mt. Pleasant ; Hon. D. H. Solomon, Glenwood ; Hon. D. W. Scoville, Osceola ; Hon. E. Sells, Sec'y of State, Geo. W. McCleary Esq., Rev. P. S. Van Nest, Rev. F. A. Shearer, Rev. W. H. Barris and M. J. Morsman, Esq., Iowa City.

Corresponding Secretary—Rev. Samuel Storrs Howe, Iowa City.

Recording Secretary—R. H. Sylvester, Iowa City.

Treasurer—Morgan Reno, Iowa City.

Executive Committee—Geo. W. McCleary, Esq., Hon. Elijah Sells, Rev. P. S. Van Nest, Rev. F. A. Shearer and Dr. Moses J. Morsman, Iowa City.

The Executive Committee reported the names of members, and the amount paid into the Treasury as follows :

Amount paid in.....	\$32,00
Paid for printing notices.....	3,00
Bal. in the Treasury.....	\$29,00

On motion the report was adopted.

Mr. Gurley offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That we deem it advisable to call the attention of the parent Society to the vast influx of population in the North Western States, and to the rapidly increasing influence of these States in our national councils ; and would suggest the importance of having the cause of colonization presented to this region by some suitable person or persons.

The following resolution was offered by Rev. S. S. Howe, and unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That this Society would earnestly recommend to the friends of Colonization throughout the State, the "African Repository" as the organ of the parent Society, published at Washington, D. C.

The Address of Col. T. M. Claggett, not having been reported at length, is necessarily omitted.

George Lindley, Esq., of Iowa City, offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the best interests of our country, and the success of African Colonization requires, that a line of Governmental Mail Steamers should be established between this country and Liberia.

In support of this resolution, Mr. Lindley spoke as follows :

MR. PRESIDENT :—I offer this resolution, for the purpose of indicating the manner in which, I think, the friends of the cause should commence, in order to give a strong impetus to the great, philanthropic and Christian cause of African Colonization.

The two great obstacles, which we have heretofore had to contend with, are want of facilities for emigration and frequent communication with Liberia, and a systematic deep-seated hostility on the part of a certain class of northern people who endeavor to disparage and ridicule this enterprise, so that they may the more successfully venture their own peculiar views, and lead to another result. They represent the plan as impracticable. You have heard the account of its unparalleled success, from such a small beginning, and under so many disadvantages. If so much has been done with so few facilities,

what might not be accomplished with ample facilities, under a liberal and enlightened system of Colonization? Liberia now has a Republican Government to afford protection—a civilization of her own—the finest country in the world, the native, original home of the African Negro. If the subjects of the civilized governments of Europe will leave their kindred, their homes, their native land, and the land of their fathers for time immemorial, to emigrate to this country, at the rate of a quarter to half a million a year, from motives of gain, and to enable their children to attain an equality in society, social and political, what might not be attained in the course of African Colonization with the superior inducements which would exist, if ready facilities for emigration, and frequent mail and commercial communications were established? When the facilities are once opened, and the attention of the people of the States is earnestly and sincerely directed to this subject, with a systematic effort through State and county auxiliary societies in all the States, contributions would flow in from wealthy and philanthropic citizens, benefits from lectures, appropriations from State legislatures, and last but not least a per centage of the income from the sale of our public lands, might be constitutionally appropriated towards defraying the expenses of Colonization. I am aware that strict constructionists will start a little, at this suggestion, at first glance, as I did, when the subject of remuneration was first proposed. But let them examine a moment. How many millions of the nation's treasure have been appropriated to defray expenses accruing from questions arising on the subject of negro servitude? It is conceded by nearly all our statesmen to be the most dangerous question that threatens the peace and internal quiet of our country. If tens and hundreds of millions of our national treasure may be appropriated to purchase territory; to protect us against foreign aggression; for the removal and civilization of the Indians to particular States for the purposes of education and the construction of rail roads; to construct roads under the patronage of the general Government for Military purposes; to fulfil our treaty stipulations; for the suppression of the foreign slave trade by the employment of our navy—

why may it not be appropriated to gradually remove, with the consent of the parties interested, the most dangerous element that now threatens the peace of the nation? Has it not been demonstrated by actual experiment, that Colonization is the cheapest, most effective, and most humane mode of suppressing the African slave-trade?

Let us once establish a sincere, fraternal, energetic concert of action from all parties and classes, unless it be those who will not be persuaded—"lest Othello's occupation be gone"—and the work may be accomplished, much sooner than the most sanguine now anticipate.

REMARKS OF J. H. WALLACE ESQ., OF MUSCATINE.

MR PRESIDENT :—It was not my intention to have made any remarks to-night. But as some of the speakers, announced for the evening, are not present, I will undertake to fill but a small vacancy, which has not been occupied by the very interesting and able remarks which have been made by the gentlemen who have addressed us.

The subject of Colonization commends itself to my mind for various reasons, which I will not now take time to elaborate; but merely suggest them.

For the last twelve or fifteen years, I have heard but little of the cause, which has called us together, on this occasion. In my earlier life, although but a young man yet, the annual contribution to the Colonization Society was considered a duty, just as obligatory as the contribution to the Board of Missions or any other agency which had for its object the sending of the Gospel to the heathen. Among my earliest recollections of the various schemes for ameliorating the condition of man, that of sending the oppressed and down-trodden sons of Africa back to their native shores, stands first and most prominent. The merits of the enterprise were impressed so deeply upon my young mind, that its claims have ever presented themselves as a most solemn Christian obligation. If, then, there were no other considerations, that of early training would be sufficient to commend the enterprise and command a cheerful and hearty support.

But there are other reasons. In casting my eye over the

audience, I see men of every political complexion. Here are Democrats, and Republicans, and also a very slight sprinkling of regular live Know-Nothings. In the exciting presidential contest, which has just closed, the Democrat has called the Republican, an abolitionist; and the Republican has called the Democrat "pro-slavery;" and the American—poor fellow—has been called both, just as it suited the object of his enemy. Hereafter, Mr. President, will any Republican,—no difference how ardent—notwithstanding you are known throughout the State as a leading Democrat, have so little regard to truth, as to call you an advocate for slavery? Let your position, and interest manifested in this glorious cause to-night, answer the aspersion. And will a Democrat again call our Republican friends, who are with us shoulder to shoulder in this good cause, abolitionists? Let it be remembered, that the bitterest and most unrelenting enemies, the Colonization cause ever had, are the abolitionists. How, then, can these men be followers of Garrison, Philips, & Co., and so *earnestly* and *honestly* engaged in the cause which has always called forth the most untiring opposition of those leaders? Here, the two extremes are met, and are found, when freed from the slanders of political excitement, neither to be "pro-slavery" nor "abolition;" but both agreed as to the evil of the institution; and, earnestly engaged in a cause, which has for its object, the gradual but sure emancipation of the slave. If there were nothing else to commend this cause to the sympathies and support of the philanthropist, the very fact that it softens the asperities of political contest; defines the ground upon which political opponents stand; and proves that ground to be the same, is sufficient to demand the encouragement of every man who loves his neighbor.

But Mr. President, there is a higher and holier light in which to view this question, and to which no direct reference has been made by any of the speakers, who have preceded me. The Ruler and Disposer of all events, in the case of the African as in a thousand others, is making "the wrath of man to praise him." In this all-wise purpose, he has suffered the stronger to seize the weaker, and bind him, and sell him into per-

petual bondage. When God permitted the cupidity of man thus to enslave his fellow man, this purpose was not revealed, and who then was so wise as to understand His mysterious workings? The father is kid-napped, and carried in irons across the Atlantic, to promote the sordid gains of a so called Christian people. The son is returned across the same ocean, not as the slave of his owner, but as a free man in Christ—not weighed down with the weight of his manacles but richly laden with the blessings of the everlasting Gospel, bearing to the land of his fathers, rich stores of civilization and knowledge. Dark, indeed, was the mystery of God's providence, in permitting the slave-trade; but that providence is now beginning to be understood; and judging the future by the past, I doubt not, that it is His design to civilize and christianize the whole of that dark and benighted continent, through the instrumentality of this great national evil, which we all lament: and that the cause we advocate to-night is the agency he is employing to carry out his own design.

REMARKS OF HON. J. C. HALL.

Hon. J. C. Hall, of Burlington, spoke as follows:
GENTLEMEN:—

It may not be improper for me, at this stage of the proceedings, to submit a few remarks upon this interesting, but much neglected subject.

My reflections have led me to place the necessity and usefulness of the Colonization Society upon a broader basis, than that usually assigned to it. It is based as much upon sympathy of the white, as the colored people.

The mere fact that there are, in this country, three millions of African Negroes in a state of bondage, is one thing; but that there are seven millions of white people who are under the influence of this same system—the one as Masters, it is true; the other as Slaves—is another consideration.

But they are here and cannot exist together only in that condition. They cannot exist together as equals, and they will not.

With the prejudice of centuries, to combat; with a natural

mark that renders the Negro repulsive ;—inferior ever since history gives information ;—it is only from wild and deluded fanaticism that any attempt or any effort to make them morally, socially, and politically equal to the white population, can emanate.

In my judgment, the time has come, when both races suffer from being together ; and of the two the white race are the greatest sufferers.

There are many considerations that induce this belief, which I shall not detain this Society to enumerate.

We have it written all over our broad land, in lines not to be misunderstood, which must convince all, that the labor of the negro can never be brought into competition with that of the European. Even with the lash of the master, and the force of absolutism, you cannot give it skill, you cannot instil into it, the force of enterprize, or the power of productiveness. It has ever, and will ever, fall far, far in the rear, in the race for ascendancy.

They are here; they can never have a home or a country here. As long as they remain, they must be outcasts and inferiors. They can have no aspiration, and, at best, a most unevenly divided sympathy, as the objects of an unwelcome, hesitating, and noisy charity.

They had a home, a country, where the God of Heaven created them; where the European found them. To send them back to that country—that home, is the greatest and noblest idea of this enlightened, and glorious age.

We can then say, it is true, we took them by the hand of fraud, violence and wrong. We forced them from the country of their creation. We bound them in chains, barely supportable, and now we return them infinitely improved, in their moral, industrial, and religious condition. To digress a little, let us, for a moment, look at the condition of these people before the hand of violence ever touched them; before the institution of slavery was inaugurated. They were in the lowest state of degradation—in the deepest gloom of barbarous and savage darkness. They were a people, without laws, and without a history. No part of created humanity was ever

sunk deeper in brutal degradation. The mother would sell her child for a paltry gewgaw ; and the father dispose of his family for a gawdy feather. The strong overpowered the weak, without fear of retribution ; and human life was but little better protected than that of the beast. Religion, they had none. The picture of their debasement palls and sickens the mind, a long way short of reality.

It was thus we found them. We return them, christianized and partially enlightened.

We send them back stamped with improvement, elevated in the scale of humanity ; with a history—with a religion, with ideas of government ; with a respect for human laws and human government. Indeed, who shall say that the hand of Providence has not taken this great measure, to shower the light upon darkened and benighted Africa ? All christendom, with her extended zeal, and her thousand Missionaries scattered over the heathen and benighted earth, has fallen far short of effecting what this will do, if the objects of this Society shall prevail.

Say not, that this scheme is impracticable. The Colony is scarce thirty years old, and it is stronger, more numerous, and in a better condition than was the French Colony in Louisiana in 1754, or the English at Jamestown, or Plymouth Rock, thirty years after they were established.

Let the returning Ships from Europe, that bring to our shores her surplus and fleeing people, take back a freight of our colored people to Africa, and a few years will free us from this unfortunate class of created beings.

I am for giving them a home and a country, where they will have no prejudices to encounter ; no superior race to compete with ; no masters to drive—no tyrants to dictate, and let them try to govern themselves.

I look upon this enterprize as one of unmixed philanthropy, one that calls aloud upon this nation of people, for their co-operation, and for their aid.

Col. Wm. Patterson, offered the following as the closing resolution :

Resolved, That the Constitution and By-Laws of this So-

ciety, the Annual Report of the Directors, and the proceedings of this Meeting be published under the direction of the Secretaries for general circulation throughout the State.

When on motion, the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

J. C. HALL, Pres. Pro tem.

GEO. W. MC CLEARY, Sec'y.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

In making their report, the Directors are happy to state, that the organization, begun two years ago, has been finally consummated by the adoption of a Constitution and By-laws.

No system of agency, however, has been adopted, as yet. So that the Committee have the simple receipts from membership only to report.

The Directors feel it to be most important, that some plan of agency be adopted both for the collection of funds, and for the diffusion of intelligence on the subject of African Colonization. And they hope to have the hearty co-operation of the Society, and of the community at large, in carrying out some systematic efforts for these ends.

The great principle of Colonization has always been the basis of national extension, in ancient and modern times. The Assyrian, the Persian, the Medo-Persian, and the Roman Empires were extended over the world, by Colonization; until, at the Christian Era, the Roman empire embraced nearly all the organized nations on the globe.

In modern times, England, the most powerful nation of Europe, has planted colonies over both hemispheres and the islands of the sea; until, it is literally true, that, on the kingdom of Great Britain, encircling the world, the sun never sets.

But it has been left for the citizens of the Republic of the United States—once colonies, to establish, by colonization, on the ground of benevolence, a colony in Africa—an independent Republic—already acknowledged, as a free and independent nation, by Great Britain, Prussia and the Hanseatic States of Germany. And, it is enough to make an American blush, to remember that Liberia has thus far failed to be acknowledged as an Independent State by the government of the Uni-

ted States. May speedy justice be done by our government to this infant Republic in Africa.

The history of American colonization in Africa may be briefly given. As early as 1802, Thomas Jefferson suggested the idea of African colonization. About 1810, Paul Cuffee, a colored ship-owner, of Boston, carried the first colonists from the United States to the Cape of Good Hope, or two several companies of colored persons, like himself, back to their fatherland. About 1816, Dr. Finley, of New Jersey, and others, including Sam'l J. Mills, of Connecticut, took measures which resulted in the formation of the American Colonization Society and the settlement of the colony, now Republic of Liberia, in Africa.

Liberia has seven hundred miles of sea-coast, and extends its influence over two hundred miles into the interior, or embraces a territory nearly twice as large as Iowa. It has a population, (of Africans from America or their children,) of ten thousand souls, or as large as the population of Nebraska Territory, besides a native population of three hundred thousand souls, subject to the laws of the Republic.

The Republic of Liberia has an established government, with a Legislature, a judiciary, a militia, and a navy—or, at least, a ship of war, the gift of Great Britain; a system of currency begun, a school system, that rivals our own, and a public periodical press. Already it has a college projected, of which the first President, Hon. J. J. Roberts, a man of color but of eminence and excellence, is now President. To it liberal bequests have been made and large donations, in this country; and President Roberts has visited England to secure additional funds. The present incumbent of the Executive Chair, in Liberia, Hon. Stephen A. Benson, is a worthy successor of the first President of this new republic, having been a resident of Africa since the sixth year of his age, and being almost a native.

The productions of Liberia are chiefly coffee, sugar, cotton, and ivory by exchange with the natives of the interior. And, already, a considerable commerce with this country has sprung up. So much so, that for this commercial purpose, but more

especially for transporting emigrants from the United States, a vessel has been found necessary for the American Colonization Society. The State of Maine undertook to supply one. When delay occurred, Mr. Stevens, of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, made the magnificent donation of a vessel, at a cost of over \$30,000. This vessel will now perform regular trips to and from Liberia, as a commencement of a line of communication, which the Congress of the United States has been in vain solicited to establish, lest the increasing trade of Liberia should be altogether diverted to Great Britain and Europe.

Emigrant houses, also, have been sent out for the better accommodation of the emigrants, during the period of acclimation. Already these facilities of emigration have reduced the mortality, ninety per cent.

Seldom, if ever, has colonization, any where on the face of the earth, been attended with more happy results. Already a nation—a republic—has been born on that dark Ethiopian shore, stopping the horrors of the slave-trade for seven hundred miles of sea-coast. Already, unassisted by the arm of the civil government at home, has African colonization from America taken possession by purchase of a vast territory, and extended wholesome laws over a population nearly as large as that of New Hampshire, one of the old thirteen States of our Union, at its formation. And, yet, forty years have not elapsed, since American colonization went into successful operation. What may not the next forty years accomplish for Africa, in the way of opening the interior of that continent to the world, where cities that vie with London, and Paris and New York, as to size, are already known to exist? What may not yet be hoped from Africa, with her golden sands, with her native iron, malleable even without the forge, and with her diamonds—as the most useful and valuable treasures of the world?

When emigration of Africa's exiled sons shall flow back to their fatherland, as the sons of Erin and the exiles of Europe tend to this land of the free—or rather when, with their own free will, Africans shall desire to go to the home of their

fathers; and the facilities of emigration shall be greatly increased, what grand results may be seen? Europeans flock to the United States, by the half million, a year. May not the day yet come, and that soon, when hundreds of thousands of the colored race shall return to the golden shores of their ancestry, in a single year, realizing, in some degree, the exodus of the Hebrew nation from Egypt into the promised Canaan?

In behalf of the Directors,
S. STORRS HOWE.

NOTICE.—All letters relating to the State Society operations, may be addressed to the REV. SAM'L STORRS HOWE, *Corresponding Secretary*, at Iowa City: and all moneys may be remitted to MORGAN RENO, ESQ., *Treasurer*, at Iowa City, Iowa.

FORM OF CONSTITUTION FOR AN AUXILIARY
SOCIETY.

ART. 1st. *This Society shall be called the Colonization Society of ———— auxiliary to the State Colonization Society of Iowa.*

ART. 2nd. A yearly subscription of one dollar shall constitute membership; and five dollars paid at any one time, membership for life.

ART. 3d. The officers of this Society, shall be a President, two or more Vice Presidents, a Board of Directors, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, holding office until others are elected in their stead.

ART. 4. The Directors, five of whom shall form a quorum for business, shall conduct the affairs of the Society, and meet at their discretion, or on call of the officers, who shall be ex-officio members of the Board.

ART. 5. The annual meeting shall be on ———— or at such time and place as the Directors may appoint.

ART. 6. This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two thirds the members present at any regular meeting of the Society.