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AN

INQUIRY

INTO

THE MERITS

OF THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY:

AND

A REPLY TO THE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST IT.

WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF THE

BRITISH AFRICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

BY

THOMAS HODGKIN, M.D.

Cupio me esse clementem.—Cic.

C
LONDON:

**J. & A. ARCH, CORNHILL;
HARVEY & DARTON, GRACECHURCH STREET;
EDMUND FRY, HOUNSDITCH; AND S. HIGHLEY, 32, FLEET STREET.**

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1833.

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*Extract from a Letter to R. R. Gurley, of the American Colonization Society,
From George M. Erskine, a highly respectable Minister of Colour.*

"Liberia, March 9, 1833.

"REVEREND AND DEAR BROTHER—We embarked on the 14th of January 1830; and arrived at Monrovia, February 28th, after a pleasant voyage of forty-two days. It was, upon the whole, a pleasant voyage. The emigrants are fifty-eight in number. No sickness worth naming, except that of the sea, on the way; nor as yet. We are all yet together in a house prepared for the reception of emigrants; where we expect to remain till we pass the fever, should we outlive it. There is a general satisfaction among the emigrants; they are pleased with their new country and present prospect: my own family have no desire to return. We were received by the Agent and former emigrants with the strongest marks of friendship, and welcomed as citizens of Liberia. Our prospects of farms on which to live are inviting and flattering; being between Monrovia and Millsburg, on the bank of the St. Paul's. I presume that the situation will be a healthy one, so soon as it becomes an open country, having a pleasant sea-breeze from two directions. My dear Sir, I believe this colony is a plant planted by the Great Husbandman of the Universe: to it He hath already proved a guardian: around it He has erected his pavilion: and if the citizens only fear God and work righteousness, and continue in union under a wholesome civil government and laws, from the flourishing state of the colony there is reason to believe it will grow into a great empire. There is a large field for the labours of a Gospel Minister. If the Lord will, it will give me much pleasure, indeed, to labour in this part of His moral vineyard; but in this, His will be done! My time in this country being short, it is but little I can say about it. This much I can say, my expectations in coming to it are already realized. Never did I feel so much like a freeman as I have since I came here. I would heartily recommend to every Freeman of Colour to leave the United States for Liberia; and any one who wishes to do well, particularly those who have a little property. Were I at Virginia, and had 500 dollars to lay out at Richmond, I could in a short time convert it into a fortune here.

"The thing most to be deplored in this colony is the want of a good school, and an enlightened teacher for poor children whose parents cannot school them; for in this tropical country, where there is an abundance of gold, ivory, cam-wood, coffee and sugar, indigo, and many lucrative fruits, we could have an enlightened community. There is nothing to hinder it from rising to a level, in point of eminence, wealth, and power, among the most refined nations of the earth. There is no way in which those in America, who feel friendly to this infant colony, can confer so great a favour on it as to establish a Free School for the benefit of the poor children in it. This I hope you will influence them to do. There are many to whom I wish to write.

Your servant, GEORGE M. ERSKINE,
[See *Innes's History of Liberia*, p.124.]

LETTER from DOVER NUTTER, a respectable, intelligent, and pious old Man of Colour, formerly of Salisbury, Somerset County, Maryland; to Levin H. Patrick, Corresponding Secretary of the Salisbury Auxiliary Colonization Society; dated Monrovia, April 9, 1833.

"RESPECTED SIR—It is a comfort to me to have it in my power to communicate to you the satisfaction I have in being here. Since our arrival here, I visited Grand Bassa, a place about to be settled; with which I was