

Wm Johnston Esq

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THE AFRICAN INTELLIGENCER.

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No. 1.

General Intelligence.

Geographical Sketch of Africa.

THE extent of Africa is greater than that of Europe, and its population more numerous than of the continent of America. It derived its original inhabitants from the immediate posterity of Noah, and was probably peopled soon after the confusion of tongues. Its greatest extent, from the Cape of Good-Hope, in lat. 34 50, south, to Cape Serrat, 37 18, north, is 4990 miles; and its greatest breadth, from Cape Verd in 15 deg. 30 W. Long. to Cape Guardafui 51 deg. E. is 4600 miles. Africa is a vast peninsula separated from Asia, by the Isthmus of Suez, formed by the approach of the extremities of the Mediterranean Sea, and Arabian Gulf [the Red Sea of Scripture]—and resembles in shape a prostrate pyramid, having the Mediterranean Sea for the boundary of its base, the Indian and Atlantic Oceans on its two sides—and declining gradually south, terminates in the Cape of Good-Hope.

The language spoken on the northern coast is a dialect founded on the Arabic, in which is preserved whatever literary monuments are now extant. With the Mahometan religion, the language of Arabia is likewise extended far into the interior of the conti-

ment, and down the Western Coast, as far as about the sixteenth degree of North Latitude. From this point, which is the latitude of Cape Verd, and about 150 miles north of Sierra Leone, the Soosoo language, remarkable for its softness and musical cadences, prevails. Many of the surrounding tribes use a dialect of this language.

In Egypt, besides the Arabic, a corrupted dialect of the ancient Coptic, is still retained by the descendants of the original inhabitants. The Abyssinians have a dialect formed on the ancient Ethiopic. With these exceptions, the innumerable tribes of the interior, and of South Africa, use a great variety of barbarous and imperfect languages, which can be traced to no common origin, and present few analogies between themselves.

The great natural features of Africa are, the Nile, which rises near the centre of the continent, about lat. 8 deg. north, and pursues a northern direction through Abyssinia, and Egypt to the Mediterranean.—The Niger, which has its rise in the mountains near the Western Coast, and pursues an eastern course through a fertile country beyond the limits of European research. The Mountains

Extract from "An act to continue in force 'An act to protect the commerce of the United States, and punish the crime of piracy,' and also to make further provision for punishing the crime of piracy." Passed May 15, 1820.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That, if any citizen of the United States, being of the crew or ship's company, of any foreign ship or vessel engaged in the slave trade, or any person whatever, being of the crew or ship's company, of any ship or vessel owned in whole or in part, or navigated for, or in behalf of, any citizen or citizens of the United States, shall land, from any such ship or vessel, and, on any foreign shore, seize any negro or mulatto, not held to service or labour by the laws of either of the states or territories of the United States, with intent to make such negro or mulatto a slave, or shall decoy, or forcibly bring or carry, or shall receive such negro or mulatto on board any such ship or vessel, with intent as aforesaid, such citizen or person shall be adjudged a pirate, and on conviction thereof before the circuit court of the United States for the district wherein he may be brought or found, shall suffer death.

SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That, if any citizen of the United States, being of the crew or ship's company of any foreign ship or vessel engaged in the slave trade, or any person whatever, being of the crew or ship's company of any ship or vessel owned wholly or in part, or navigated for, or in behalf of, any citizen or citizens of the United States, shall forcibly confine or detain, or aid and abet in forcibly confining or detaining, on board any such ship or vessel, any negro, or mulatto, not held to service by the laws of either of the states or territories of the United States, with intent to make such negro or mulatto a slave, or shall, on board any such ship or vessel, offer or attempt to sell, as a slave, any negro or mulatto, not held to service as aforesaid, or shall, on the high seas, or any where on tide water, transfer, or deliver over, to any other ship or vessel, any such negro or mulatto, not held to service, as aforesaid, with intent to make such negro or mulatto a slave, or shall land or deliver on shore, from on board any such ship or vessel, any such negro or mulatto, with intent to make sale of, or having previously sold, such negro or mulatto, as a slave, such citizen or person shall be adjudged a pirate, and on conviction thereof, before the circuit court of the United States for the district wherein he shall be brought or found, shall suffer death.

The Constitution of the American Society, for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States.

ART. 1. This Society shall be called, "The American Society, for colonizing the free people of colour of the United States."

ART. 2. The object to which its attention is to be exclusively directed, is to promote and execute a plan for colonizing (with their con-

sent) the free people of colour, residing in our country, in Africa, or such other place as Congress shall deem most expedient. And the Society shall act, to effect this object in co-operation with the general government, and such of the states as may adopt regulations upon the subject.

ART. 3. Every citizen of the United States, who shall subscribe these articles, and be an annual contributor of one dollar to the funds of the Society, shall be a member. On paying not less than thirty dollars, at one subscription, shall be a member for life.

ART. 4. The officers of this Society shall be, a President, thirteen Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Recorder, and a Board of Managers, composed of the above named officers, and twelve other members of the Society. They shall be annually elected by the members of the Society, at an annual meeting on the last Saturday of December, and continue to discharge their respective duties till others are appointed.

ART. 5. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Managers, and to call meetings of the Society, and of the Board, when he thinks necessary, or when required by any three members of the Board.

ART. 6. The Vice-Presidents, according to seniority, shall discharge these duties in the absence of the President.

ART. 7. The Secretary shall take minutes of the proceedings, prepare and publish notices, and discharge such other duties as the Board, or the President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, according to the seniority, (when the Board is not sitting) shall direct. And the Recorder shall record the proceedings, and the names of the members, and discharge such other duties as may be required of him.

ART. 8. The treasurer shall receive and take charge of the funds of the Society, under such security as may be prescribed by the Board of Managers: keep the accounts, and exhibit a statement of receipts and expenditures at every annual meeting, and discharge such other duties as may be required of him.

ART. 9. The Board of Managers shall meet on the first Monday in January, the first Monday in April, the first Monday in July, and the first Monday in October, every year, and at such other times as the President may direct. They shall conduct the business of the Society, and take such measures for effecting its objects as they shall think proper, or shall be directed at the meetings of the Society, and make an annual report of their proceedings. They shall also fill up all vacancies occurring during the year, and make such by-laws for their government, as they may deem necessary, provided the same are not repugnant to this constitution.

ART. 10. Every Society which shall be formed in the United States to aid in the object of this association, and which shall co-operate with its funds for the purposes thereof, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this Society, shall be considered auxiliary thereto, and its officers shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Managers.