

Extract from an address by ALEXANDER CRUMMELL, Professor in Liberia College, on the occasion of the arrival of 346 emigrants at Monrovia, from Barbadoes, W. I. in the Fifth month last.

The day of preparation for our race is well nigh ended: the day of duty and responsibility on our part, to suffering, benighted Africa, is at hand. In much sorrow, pain and deepest anguish, God has been preparing the race, in foreign lands, for a great work of grace on this continent. The hand of God is on the black man in all the lands of his distant sojourn, for the good of Africa.

This continent is to be reclaimed for Christ. The faith of Jesus is to supersede all the abounding desolation of heathenism. And the church of Christ is to enter in, in His name, and to subdue, by the Spirit, its crowded population to His yoke, and to claim the whole continent for her Lord.

In this work the colored population of America are largely to participate. They, whether living on the mainland in the States, or residing as inhabitants of the Antilles, or sojourning in the Republics of the South, or dwelling in the Brazilian Empire, are to be active agents of God for the salvation of Africa. A remnant of all these peoples, thus widely scattered—for it is by "remnants," "the called," the "chosen," the "elect," that God works the marvels of His providence, as well as of His grace—a remnant of these peoples, prompted either by the immediate Spirit of God, or moved by collateral influences, are to be transplanted from their distant homes, amid this heathen population, with domestic habits, civilized customs, and Christian institutions.*

A portion of them have already been brought into compliance with these manifest providential arrangements. By a most singular and favoring providence, thousands of American emigrants have crossed the wide ocean, and taken up their residence in this Republic. Here we are touching and influencing, in divers ways, thousands of heathen natives. *Our mission is evidently to organize the native labor all around us; to introduce regulating and controlling law among them; to gather their children into*

* Men of African descent, from Jamaica, Antigua, Barbadoes, St. Thomas, Demerara, and from more than half of the States of America, are now laboring on the West Coast of Africa, as missionaries and teachers, at Pongas, Sierra Leone, in Liberia, at Cape Coast, at Lagos, and at the Cameroons. It is also worthy of notice that nigh 2,000 "emancipados" have returned during late years, from Brazil to Lagos.

schools, in order to train their intellects; to make these people civilized and Christian people; to incorporate them into our Republic as citizens, and into the Church of God as brethren!

Some little of this great work we have already done among our native tribes; but 14,000 Christians are but a handful of people among a half million heathen. The work is too vast and weighty for the paucity of our numbers. Hence we have become painfully impressed with the necessity of large additions to our civilized, Christian population. We need more capable men and women in the land. It is not that we lack labor, for we have tens of thousands of natives, all through the country; and all that is needed to secure that labor, is skillful treaties, judicious alliances, just remuneration, and humane treatment, to supply any demand we can make upon kings and headmen in the interior. *Our need is that of civilized Christian black men to join us in the great work Providence has set before us as duty in this land.*

Hence the Legislature of Liberia, prompted by the late President Benson, in the year 1861, commissioned three citizens of this Republic to invite emigration on the part of our own brethren in the United States of America and in the West Indies. More recently the present chief magistrate of our Republic, Hon. D. B. Warner, issued a proclamation, inviting especially the colored population dwelling in the West India Islands to emigrate to this Republic. His proclamation accorded entirely with the desires of hundreds in those Islands, especially in the Island of Barbadoes; and at a very early day, news reached this country of the determination of our Barbadian friends to come over and join us in our work. But great difficulties intervened; more than one delay occurred; by and by the friends of African colonization in the United States came to the rescue; a large appropriation of money was made by the "American Colonization Society," and the whole project of the emigration of these brethren was generously and graciously assumed by this Society. The difficulties being thus removed, information was communicated to this country that we might confidently look for an emigration this year from the Island of Barbadoes.

And they have come. They have come from a home of civilization and refinement, but where a close-crowded population, the painful remembrances of past servitude, and a yet existent spirit of caste, robbed them of many of the feelings of home, and long suggested to them ideas of voluntary exile. They have come, rejecting the offers of other and wealthier colonies, electing from choice and interest a heritage amid the negro race, in the land of their fathers. They have come, tired of an alien rule, wearied, as we were, with the position of strangers in their native land,

to become citizens in a negro nationality and the creators of a free Republic amid despotic heathenism.

They have come with their hoes and their spades, with their scythes and their axes, to humble the forests of Africa, and to subdue the soil to the purposes of civilized culture. They have come "with their young and with their old, with their sons and with their daughters," come across the wide ocean, to set up their standards, and to make new homes in this Western Africa. They have come with their Bibles and Prayer-books, with their Christian creeds and their family altars, to reproduce the faith and the forms of Christianity amid the idolatries of their father-land.*

Children of the Antilles! Sons of "Little England," beautiful Barbadoes! We welcome you to this, the land of your forefathers. We welcome you to this heritage of freedom and civil prerogative! We welcome you to a full participation with us in governmental rights and national responsibility! We welcome you to a common burden of duty and obligation in this infant State; yet, we believe, to become, in our children, a nation that will excite the admiration of the world! We welcome you to all the obligations of the Church of God, placed in the midst of the heathen, and henceforth made responsible for their training and salvation!

You saw yourselves how warm and generous was the greeting of the Emigrant Agent who first met you on your arrival. And since then you have had the hand-grasp of brotherhood from our chief magistrate, the President, who hailed you from afar, and saluted you even before you left your former homes for this. In this salutation all people of standing and respectability in this community, all classes of our population join, and hail you, at once, as comrades and fellow-citizens.

You see with your own eyes the unpretending condition of our Republic. We are no ancient State, no advanced or aged government with a burdened treasury and overflowing coffers. Our Government is the latest born of time, and we stand to-day, the least among the nations. Liberia is a young country, laying, as I dare to affirm, good foundations, but with much pain, great trials, consuming anxieties, and with the price of great tribulation, and much mortality.

You will not, therefore, look for that large governmental patronage which ancient kingdoms and wealthy republics are able to give new emigrants to their shores or colonies.

But, unofficial as I am, in all my relations, I feel that I may venture the declaration, that all that skill, and forecast, and perseverance,

* Not the least interesting fact observed by the Monrovia clergy was the universality of Bibles, Prayer-books, and Eucharistic works among the Barbadian emigrants.

and brotherly regard, and the prompted sympathies of Christian love *can* do, to make your way, in this new, rough land, easy and comfortable and satisfactory, will be done by the authorities to whom you have already paid your respects, and who are interested in your welfare.

Already you have been assured of the allotments which are to become your family possessions for all the future of yourselves and children. On those rich and fertile lands you will soon erect your habitations and commence your toil. There you will work your farms, and commence those laborious preparations which, with but half of the spent labor of your past lives, if it be systematic and persistent, will soon lay the foundations of broad and solid wealth. But, brethren, vital and important as are these family and economical interests, they are but subsidiary to that one great master interest and cause, which lies at the base of all this emigration, both yours and ours, to this our father-land, viz. : The evangelization of *this* section of the continent.

We have been sent hither in God's providence, civilizers and evangelizers of these our heathen kinsmen around us. We are placed here, without doubt, the pioneers of the Christian Church, in all this special region. For this we have been trained and schooled in the lands, respectively, of our trial and suffering; we in the United States; you in Barbadoes; in the one blessed Church "in whose bowels we were all bred, at whose breast we received nourishment" from our youth to manhood. We all, with our families, are the agents and ministers of this Church in this land, for the propagation of the faith.

Other work, indeed, we have here; but it is only collateral to this. Trade, agriculture, commerce, art, letters, government, are other great features of our mission here, and ruinous will it be for us to despise or to neglect them; but they are only auxiliary to that one great master service, which God has imposed upon us and you, viz. : to glorify God's name, and to plant His Church amid this heathen population!

You are going out from this spot, in a day or two, to the uncleared lands, on the border line between our civilized communities and the heathen. Carry with you there all the elements of the faith, all the marks of your Church in their fulness and integrity. Lift high in your families and communities the standard of the cross. Suffer not, by even one jot or one tittle, the least diminution in your townships of your Christian principles and your Christian habits. Erect at once the family altar; and let the incense of prayer and praise ascend, morning and evening, from your assembled households.

Be tender and pitiful and earnest to the

heathen around you, for their souls' sakes, and for Christ; but resist, steadfastly, especially for your children's sakes, their vicious habits, and their corrupting influences.*

Cling to all the simple teachings of your catechism, especially to that one, strong, forceful precept, "to do your duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call you." Hold on, with tenacity, to all the doctrines and the truth contained in that "form of sound words," by which you have been trained, and taught to worship. Above all, make the Word of God "the man of your counsel;" keep open Bibles in your houses; and not only read them yourselves, but teach your children, and your heathen servants, should you have any, to read them daily, for guidance in *all* things, as well secular as divine.

Go forth, then, Christian pilgrims, with all the deep resolve of serious men, and in the fear of God. Let the sentiments and motives which come from heaven prompt you in all your actions. Ye have done right well in coming up here to Holy Communion this morning; in offering your "first fruits" on "coming into the land which the Lord God has given you." Abide in the spirit of this beginning. Remember, I beseech you, the warnings and the monitions of the second Lesson for this evening.† Carry them with you to your new homes in the wilderness. Preserve the spirit of them in your hearts and households; and then God will be with you. He will help you, and your children, and the generations which may succeed you. And so a blessing shall go out from you through all the land; and as your settlements spread out into the interior, every town, every family, shall become the centre of a wide circumference of godly influence. Yea, every footfall, as your population advances, shall tell powerfully for Christ. And thus the widening circles of Christian influence, from us, and from all the other centres of gospel truth on this coast, shall in early centuries, embrace this entire heathen population, until the whole continent is reclaimed, and rises up regenerated to sing the praises of the Lamb!

And even thus will it be. Yes! land of our forefathers; land of woe and agony; land of pains and suffering and anguish! Thy exiled children think of thee! Their hearts, filled with sympathy and desire, run toward thee! Already have they come to thy shores; already hast thou heard the voice of some of thy returned children, along the mountain sides, and in thy valleys, preaching the glad tidings! But this is only a dim foreca-ting of that large stream of blessedness, which thy children in distant lands are preparing for thee! For the day is at hand! The sons of Africa

* See Lev. xvii. 3, Jer. x. 2—8.

† 1 Cor. x. 5.

will soon arise, and come in crowds, priests and catechists and teachers, to thy shores; their feet beautiful—"bringing good tidings," "publishing salvation." Soon they will spread themselves abroad through all thy quarters. Schools and churches, and Christian colleges will spring up throughout thy borders. The Spirit of the Lord God, according to His promise, will be poured out upon millions of thy sons. "Christ shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied." The Lord God shall hasten the number of His elect; and the tide of salvation, sweeping along, in one broad, mighty current, shall bear along the mighty masses of thy people to salvation and to glory; and then "Ethiopia," from the Mediterranean to the Cape, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian, "shall soon stretch forth her hands unto God."