

20th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

[Doc. No. 79.]

HO. OF REPS.

OHIO.

MEMORIAL

OF

INHABITANTS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

IN

THE STATE OF OHIO,

UPON THE SUBJECT OF

FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR.

JANUARY 21, 1828.

Read, and laid on the table.

WASHINGTON :

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1828.

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The prayer of your memorialists respectfully represents: That, among the free People of Color residing in different sections of the country, there are many individuals earnestly desirous of removing to some part of the world where they may form a separate and independent community; and that there can be little doubt, but that, by suitable encouragement to emigration, a similar disposition might be created in the greater part, if not the whole, of that class of colored people already free.

Your memorialists have also reason to believe, that there are many of their fellow-citizens in the South and West, possessed, by inheritance, of large numbers of slaves, to whom they would very readily extend the blessings of freedom, if they could do so without entailing on their country the evils inseparable from a free colored population, and on these slaves, themselves, the dangerous consequences of freedom, unconnected with sufficient inducements and sufficient means for its proper and wholesome enjoyment.

With a view, therefore, as well to encourage the emigration of free People of Color, as to afford the necessary facilities for the general removal of slavery from amongst those desirous of ridding themselves of its evils, your memorialists beg leave, respectfully, to suggest to your honorable body the propriety of providing, on the coast of Africa, a suitable asylum for the reception of such free People of Color as may think proper to emigrate, and of such slaves as the humanity of individuals may induce them to liberate, and the laws of the different States may permit to emigrate.

And, in connection with this measure, your memorialists would further suggest the importance of setting apart, from the annual revenue of the Government, a suitable fund for furnishing the means of transportation to such free People of Color as may be desirous of emigrating to the coast of Africa.

In bringing this subject to the consideration of your honorable body, your memorialists deem it unnecessary to enter into the various and delicate considerations rendering the removal of both descriptions of population in question desirable. The evils inseparable from them, are too obvious to require elucidation. They are too great to be reached by any means within the power either of individuals or of the States. And their extension, in a greater or less degree, to every section of

the country, designates them as objects peculiarly worthy of national consideration.

To you, as guardians of the public weal, the subject is most respectfully submitted in the earnest hope, that, as there is none other involving such deep and extensive interests, it may command your early and untiring consideration, and that the result may be to lay the foundation for the gradual and voluntary removal of the greatest evil, both moral and political, with which the wisdom of Providence has seen proper to afflict our country.

Hamilton County, Ohio.