

IN RELATION TO CAPTURED AFRICANS.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

IN ANSWER TO

*A resolution of the House of the 16th instant, requesting information as to contracts for returning and subsistence of captured Africans.*

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DECEMBER 18, 1861.—Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, December 17, 1861.*

SIR: In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 16th instant, I have the honor to communicate herewith a copy of the contract entered into by this department with the American Colonization Society on the 13th day of May, 1860, for the transportation to the republic of Liberia, in Africa, of the Africans recaptured by vessels of the United States navy, and brought into the port of Key West, Florida; and also a copy of the contract entered into with the same society on the 20th day of July, 1860, for their support for one year from the date of landing in Liberia.

Other cargoes of Africans have been recaptured on the high seas by vessels of the United States navy and landed in Liberia, the contracts for whose subsistence, for one year from the date of landing, are upon the same terms in all respects.

I have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servant,  
CALEB B. SMITH,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

Hon. GALUSHA A. GROW,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Copy of contract for the transportation of Africans to the republic of Liberia.*

Whereas the American bark Wildfire, having on board a cargo of five hundred and seven Africans, and the American bark William, having on board a cargo of five hundred and thirteen Africans, have been captured by vessels of war of the United States, and brought as prize into the port at Key West; and whereas the said Africans have been landed at Key West, and are now in the custody of Fernando J. Moreno, United States marshal for the southern district of Florida; and whereas information has been received of the arrival at Key West of a third vessel, (name unknown,) having on board a cargo of four hundred and twenty Africans; and whereas by the second section of an act of Congress entitled "An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave trade," approved March 3, 1819, the President of the United States is authorized to make such regulations and arrangements as he may deem expedient for the \* \* \* \* \* removal beyond the limits of the United States "of all negroes brought into a port of the United States under the provisions of said act:" Now this indenture, made the thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, between the United States, acting by and through Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior, of the first part, and the American Colonization Society, acting by and through William McLain, financial secretary thereof, of the second part, witnesseth:

That the party of the second part, for and in consideration of the payment hereinafter stipulated to be made, has covenanted and agreed, and hereby covenants and agrees to carry and transport the captured Africans hereinbefore mentioned, and now in the custody of the United States marshal at Key West, from the said port of Key West to a port or ports of the colony of Liberia; the vessels employed in such transportation to be classed A No. 1 by the underwriters of the ports to which they belong, to be well formed in every respect, manned with efficient crews, and of an aggregate registered tonnage of not less than two thousand four hundred tons. If only two vessels are employed, such vessels shall be of not less than twelve hundred tons register each; and if more than two vessels are employed, such vessels shall be of not less than seven hundred and fifty tons register each. Said vessels shall be fitted, equipped, and provisioned in accordance with the requirements of the act of Congress entitled "An act to regulate the carriage of passengers in steamships and other vessels," approved March 3, 1855; and if it shall become necessary to use the orlop decks of said vessels, good, solid, smooth decks shall be provided, caulked fore and aft, and said decks shall be well ventilated by wind sails and air ports. And it is further covenanted and agreed that said vessels shall be inspected, before leaving the ports where they may be fitted out, by an officer of the United States navy, or such other person as may be detailed for that purpose by the party of the first part, and shall be supplied, under his direction, with whatever may be deemed necessary by him to secure the safety, health, and comfort of the Africans to be transported thereon. And the party of the second part agrees to have said vessels at the port of Key West, ready to receive said Africans on board, on the first day of July next; and if said vessels shall fail to arrive at Key West on said first day of July, to forfeit and pay to the United States the sum of five hundred dollars for every day said Africans shall be detained at Key West by reason of such failure.

And the party of the second part further covenants and agrees to furnish each of said Africans with a decent and comfortable suit of clothes; to supply them with a sufficient quantity of good, wholesome, well-cooked food; to provide medicines and medical attendance; and to furnish such additional articles of food as may be necessary for the comfort of the sick.

And the party of the second part further covenants and agrees to furnish a

sufficient number of persons to take care of said Africans and insure them such comforts as their destitute condition may entitle them to, and to supply each vessel with a galley and with cooking apparatus, such as is used on vessels of war of the United States navy, and a suitable number of pans, pots, &c., so that meals may be supplied to all the negroes at regular hours and in sufficient quantities. In addition to the foregoing, the party of second part agrees to provide standee berths for sleeping, awnings for a protection against sun and rain, apparatus for washing, and life-boats; the whole in such quantities and of such quality as may be deemed necessary by the inspecting officer.

And the party of the second part further covenants and agrees, as soon as the negroes have been received on board of the vessels, to sail with them from the port of Key West direct for a port or ports of the colony of Liberia, not touching at any port in the Island of Cuba, or elsewhere, unless compelled thereto by stress of weather or other imperious necessity, and to deliver said negroes at said port or ports to the agents duly authorized to receive them; and in case the arrangements for the reception of the negroes have not been perfected, the party of the second part further covenants and agrees to keep and feed them on board the vessels, without expense to the United States, for the space of six days.

And the party of the first part, for and in consideration of the foregoing, covenants and agrees to pay to the party of the second part the sum of fifty dollars for every negro delivered on board their vessels at Key West; payment to be made when satisfactory proof is presented that the negroes or the survivors of them have been landed in Liberia and delivered to the agents or other persons authorized to receive them.

Witness our hands and seals. Dated at Washington this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, and of the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America the eighty-fourth.

J. THOMPSON, [L. s.]

*Secretary of the Interior.*

W. McLAIN, [L. s.]

*Financial Agent American Colonization Society.*

Sealed and delivered in the presence of—

G. BAILEY.

MOSES KELLY.

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*Copy of contract for subsistence of Africans.*

This indenture, made and executed between the United States of America, acting by and through Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior, of the first part, and the American Colonization Society, acting by and through William McLain, financial secretary thereof, of the second part, witnesseth:

That the party of the second part, for and in consideration of the payments hereinafter stipulated to be made, has covenanted and agreed, and hereby covenants and agrees to receive from the duly constituted agent or agents of the United States upon the coast of Africa, and to provide with comfortable food, shelter, and clothing, for the space of one year from the date of such reception, the captured Africans recently landed in the southern district of Florida, being the same described in a contract made at Washington on the thirtieth day of May of the present year by and between the parties hereto.

And the party of the second part further covenants and agrees that an agent or agents shall be appointed by the United States to inspect said Africans from

time to time, and at all times to ascertain whether the provisions of this contract are being faithfully carried out, and whether the food, shelter, and clothing furnished to said Africans are sufficient in quantity and of good quality.

And the party of the first part, for and in consideration of the foregoing, covenants and agrees to pay to the party of the second part at the rate of one hundred dollars per annum for each African over the age of eight years, and at the rate of fifty dollars per annum for each African under that age, so fed, sheltered, and clothed—the payments to be made monthly for the first three quarters; the payment for the last quarter to be made at the end of the quarter, upon a certificate of the agent or agents aforesaid setting forth the number of Africans fed, sheltered, and clothed during each month of the year, and that the contract has been faithfully executed by the party of the second part. And it is the true intent and meaning of this clause that the United States shall have the right to deduct from the amount which may become due to the party of the second part, during the said last quarter, any sums which may have been overpaid to said party of the second part during the first three quarters.

Witness our hands and seals. Dated at Washington the twentieth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, and of the sovereignty and independence of the United States of America the eighty-fifth.

J. THOMPSON, [L. S.]

*Secretary of the Interior.*

W. McLAIN, [L. S.]

*Financial Secretary American Colonization Society*

Sealed and delivered in presence of—

W. W. LESTER.