

"What to do with the 'Darkies'"

The advocate of the immediate emancipation of the slaves as a military necessity in the present crisis, is met on the very threshold of his argument by the very pertinent question "What will you do with the slaves after emancipating them?" That is a stumbling block in the emancipationist's way which needs to be removed before his arguments, however good in theory, can be expected to have much weight with the practical statesman, or any but the radical Abolitionists of the Wendell Phillips school.

"What shall we do with the emancipated negro?" - Some have proposed to let them remain where they

are a free and independent people. protected in their just rights by the mighty arm of the law. ^{And} thus, among whom is President Lincoln, are understood to favor the plan of emigration, and colonization in Africa.

The first of these two plans is repugnant to our feelings, and seemingly so to the unchangeable laws of Nature. What practical, reasoning, man desires to see the two races, differing as they do in color, features, intellectual qualities, tastes, and in fact differing in almost every characteristic which should unite to a people, amalgamated on the shores of America. Their structure of the two races, their traditions, the associations of the past, and their hopes and wishes for the future, all differing as they do, seem to cry out against such a perversion

viola of the laws of Nature. Oil and water cannot mix; the Castilian and the Moor could not coexist in sunny Spain; What God has made so dissimilar, let not man presume to join together.

Colonizing the slaves in Liberia ^{has been} advocated by many learned and philanthropic men. Africa with its agricultural wealth and resources, its sunny plains, and blossoming groves of the magnolias and stately palms, its climate fatal to the white man, but well suited to the black, its mighty rivers and inland seas, is the true home of the negro, and in the days hereafter let us hope that every slave or free colored man may be permitted to return to his natural home and country. But unfortunately it is no light task to transport 4,000,000

of negroes, a motley host of able bodied men,
weak women, ~~and~~ aged venerable octo-
genarians, and helpless infants to the
shores of Africa. Time and money ^{are} must
be required for the Herculean labor.
Says a writer in the "Continental Monthly"
"I am informed that eight and a half
Great Easterns, each making one trip
per month, could only export the annual
increase of our Southern slaves" What
startling statistics, what a fearful task
for the nation to accomplish. Surely the
curse of the Most High is upon us, and
we are ~~not~~ reaping the fruits of our
sin in enslaving the negro.

Such being the two prominent
plans before the public, it seems to me
that the true one lies between the two
above named - that is we must colo-
nize the blacks, free and slave, on this

continent, effecting it however that
emigration to Liberia and Sierra Leone
shall diminish annually the number
on our shores. - that every year ~~should~~ ^{shall}
see us nearer the desired goal than
the preceding let Congress confiscate
the slaves, and consider them as the
property of the Nation; let it plant
colonies of them in suitable places, -
as for instance in the rice swamps
of Georgia, or the magnolia groves
of Florida - let it appoint overseers
chosen from its own number, (i.e. from
Congress) give them large salaries so as
to secure talent and respectability for
these responsible offices, hire the negroes
pay them suitable wages, deducting how-
ever from their wages for school taxes etc.,
build school houses and compel
all under a certain age to attend

"rulers, rulers", and appoint ministers of the gospel to administer to their spiritual welfare. Every two or three years a faithful census should be taken, and every man and family worth over a certain fixed amount of money, should be compelled to emigrate to Africa, or pay a heavy tax if he prefers to remain. Education will enable these benighted people to see that Africa is the ^{only} land in which they can rise above their present debased condition, the land whither destiny calls them. The Negro in Africa will be a far different being (to judge from the prosperity of Liberia) from the negro in America; there, educated and ambitious as he may be, ^{he} ^{he} can never attain equal footing with the white man: there is a field for his labors and ambition, grander than he can easily conceive of. Africa is to be sub-

cloud and regenerated, cities and palaces
are yet to rise from the fertile plains, the
forests are to be cut down, the rapid
streams are yet to turn the mills and
float the ships of a future happy and
independant people. This is the proper
sphere of the negro, here and here only
will he fulfill the brilliant ~~which~~ des-
tiny which Fortune is unveiling to him.

We tore him from his home in Africa,
and now it is our duty to replace him
there.

In these colonies as above
proposed, education will cause the
scales to drop from his eyes, and I cannot
believe that he will not as soon be eager
to return to his native land.

As for us, the task will be
an Herculean one, years perhaps a cen-
tury will glide by before the glorious
work is completed; careful management

will be required to make the negro support himself, and pay the expenses of transportation; patience - ~~godlike~~ god-like patience - will be needed in dealing with the slave; the night will be dark & very dark, ~~but~~ but the dawn will eventually break upon the land of the white men, free in every sense of the word from sea to sea.

"It will be the first step that costs," but we must struggle on manfully at the great work, and though not we, or our children may not see its completion, future generations will and when reaping the reward of our labor, shall call us blessed.

"Themistocles."