

ly expect. I have had considerable trouble with them at times, but they have uniformly *come to*, after a fair, reasonable talk. All the innumerable distresses and perplexities, necessarily accruing from a total moral, political, and physical change of circumstances, if not arising from, are expected to be remedied by the agent, and it is no slight matter to bear the brunt of all, and native palavers to boot, I assure you. But I have no great reason to despond or complain of ill success, when I reflect that Ashman the very genius of conciliation, has been obliged to shut himself up for fear of personal violence.

I shall have, for some weeks, a decent compliment of business on hand, as Mr. Thompson is necessitated to go to Monrovia on his own business, and I can get no other assistant here. Benson is also at Monrovia. I need a surveyor very much. I have been obliged to ride through bush and brier, until clothes and skin are nearly stripped from my lower extremities. To lay out lands for emigrants, to see to their location, and advise and direct each one with regard to their proper course, and to inspect affairs at the public farm, will demand the whole time and attention of one man, and a man for this purpose we must have.

I have appointed the 4th of July next, as a day of thanksgiving after our old New England fashion; and I doubt not, but you will consider it, under existing circumstances, well-timed, and becoming a christian community. Not a day, or hardly an hour passes, but I feel an inward conviction, that we are and have been specially favored by Divine Providence, and I judge that a public expression of our gratitude for such favors, would not only be our duty to the Great Author of all good, but gratifying to our pious and philanthropic patrons.

A PROCLAMATION

TO THE INHABITANTS OF MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.

Gratitude has ever been considered one of the noblest attributes of our nature, and a prominent characteristic of the wise and virtuous of all ages; and gratitude and thanksgiving to the Supreme Ruler of the universe, for all blessings, constitutes an important part of both natural and revealed religion; and no duties are more strongly enjoined upon us by the inspired writers than to enter into the gates of the Most High "with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise, to be thankful unto him, and to speak good of his name." Since we are exhorted thus to express our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for our being, preservation, and the many other blessings we individually enjoy, it especially behooves us, the inhabitants of this colony, at this time, publicly to express our deep sense of divine favor and protection. We humbly conceive that if ever there was an instance of providential interposition to promote and favor the views and exertions of men, it has been strikingly visible, in enabling us, thus far, to accomplish an undertaking the most liberal and philanthropic, and one which we trust merits the smiles and approbation of heaven.