

A letter from Dr. Hall, agent of the State Colonization Society, to John L. Carey, Esq., member of the House of Delegates, relative to the amount necessary to transport and settle an emigrant at Cape Palmas in Africa.

BALTIMORE, January 25th, 1844.

My Dear Sir:—I am unable to give as definite an answer to your enquiries, as you seem to require; you ask the cost of carrying a settler to Cape Palmas, of establishing him there, with the several items distinct, &c. It would be difficult to ascertain the actual expense of *one* emigrant, especially the items, as in all our operations the various expenses attendant upon the transporting of new emigrants, their support, the improvement of the territory and maintaining of the Government, are necessarily more or less blended. The actual expense too, would depend much on the number that should be sent at any one time, and upon the certainty of having a specified number. For instance, our late expeditions carrying out 75 and 110, cost us precisely the same sum each per charter party, the only difference in the gross expense being the feeding in the passage, say 5 or \$8, and these charters neither cost over twenty per cent more than charters previously made to carry out 25 or 40—as the case happened to be. I could contract with an African trader to carry, say only ten adults, out for \$30 each, without feeding. If I could guarantee 100, I could get them carried for \$25, and 200 for \$20. So you see much depends upon circumstances where the carrying is concerned. As to support during acclimation it depends on as many contingencies; on the season, whether of scarcity or plenty, (although from the system pursued by our agent of purchasing a large supply of rice in harvest, and planting largely on the public farm, we seldom experience any thing like scarcity,) on the severity with which the fever attacks, on the morals, energy and character of the emigrants, on his ability and disposition to help himself, &c. &c. All these and many other circumstances tend much to vary the expense necessarily attendant on acclimation. I mean the mere feeding, housing, doctoring and nursing during the fever, without regard to assistance in building houses, clearing land, &c. If I was to fix upon any one round sum, that would cover the expenses, say that large and full expeditions were to be sent out, I would set it at \$50, certainly not less, and this without regard to any thing like establishing them on their lots, &c.

I need not inform you that much more has uniformly been done by our agent, as the colony has been small, and the early settlers have heretofore been unable to do much for new comers, I mean in the way of giving them employment.

The agent has therefore at public expense, built their houses and had their first small patches of grain and vegetables put in for them. This he has effected through the labor of old colonists, who were indebted for the like advances. In reality therefore, the old emigrants provide houses, &c., for the new ones, through the agent of the society as factor.