

## Trinidad.

One evening last week, we attended a meeting of citizens of color, called to inquire and deliberate concerning the expediency of abandoning their country, and emigrating to the island of Trinidad. The subject is assuming an importance which is not generally realized. We cannot wonder that many Americans of color grow impatient under their wrongs, and long to abandon a country which treats its native children with such relentless cruelty. Indeed, we have sometimes thought that it might be a just and at the same time a merciful as well as appropriate revenge, were the three and a half millions of American descendants of Africa to take the nation at its word, and under some sable Moses, move off *en masse* to Mexico and the West Indies. Perhaps nothing could so effectually convince our money-loving countrymen of their present folly, as the sudden withdrawal of one-fourth part of the available labor of the country. It would be the greatest blow upon our political, commercial and agricultural interests that could be struck—more destructive than half a dozen wars. But we hope better things. As native Americans, feeling a deep attachment to the land of our fathers, and ready to peril every thing for its true honor and advancement, we earnestly desire our injured fellow-countrymen to bear up under the peculiar and unequal burdens thrown upon them, and to stand firm in the determination to save the country, or perish in its fall. As abolitionists, too, pledged to our enslaved brethren, "as bound with them," we call upon our brethren of kindred descent, who are nominally free, to bear their just part in hastening the day of universal emancipation;—which they can do in no way so effectually as by continuing in the country. We also take this opportunity of recalling to the minds of our brethren, the sentiment, worthy of impishable renown, "beyond all Greek, all Roman fame," which was adopted by the great meeting of people of color at the Bethel church in Philadelphia, in January, 1817, shortly after the formation of the American Colonization Society.—Perhaps that resolution has not of late, been brought forward so frequently as it ought. We find it in *Garrison's Thoughts on Colonization, Part 2, p 9*

"Resolved, That **WE NEVER WILL SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE SLAVE POPULATION IN THIS COUNTRY**; they are our brethren by the ties of consanguinity, of suffering, and of wrong; and we feel that there is **MORE VIRTUE IN SUFFERING PRIVATIONS WITH THEM**, than fancied advantages for a season."

We also copy an extract of a letter from the venerable bishop Richard Allen, which was published twelve years ago by brother Cornish, in his "Freedom's Journal." The excellent old bishop says:

"See the thousands of foreigners emigrating to America every year: and if there be ground sufficient for them to cultivate, and bread for them to eat, why should they wish to send the *first tillers* of the land away? Africans have made fortunes for thousands, who are yet unwilling to part with their services; but the free must be sent away, and those who remain must be slaves. I have no doubt that there are many good men who do not see as I do, and who are for sending us to Liberia; but they have not duly considered the matter—they are not men of color. This land which we have watered with our *tears and our blood*, is now **OUR MOTHER COUNTRY, AND WE ARE WELL SATISFIED TO STAY** where wisdom abounds and the gospel is free

"RICHARD ALLEN,  
"Bishop of the African Methodist  
"Episcopal Church in the United  
"States."

We admit that the proposals sent from the island of Trinidad are of a very flattering character; but at the same time, we are persuaded that they exhibit only the favorable side of the picture, and that those who emigrate will find many privations and hardships which they now little apprehend. We think there ought to be a committee of **THREE** intelligent and trusty men sent out to examine the country, and to stay there long enough to investigate the whole business, and see how things look in the eyes of free Americans. A rush of emigrants to a country of which so little is known, might involve an amount of human suffering and disappointment, hardly paralleled by the bloody experiments of the Colonization Society.

Our colored friends in Philadelphia, who conduct the *National Reformer*, thus express their views of the matter:

"We publish below an interesting account of the island of Trinidad. If the half be true, (and we have no reason to doubt but what the whole is so,) no ordinary inducements are offered to many of our people who are perishing for the want of such a field. We believe, under God, that those islands of the sea, (British West Indies,) are destined to have such a bearing on this country, as will ultimately lead to the abolition of slavery. We hope some of our brethren will avail themselves of the privileges here offered. We are opposed to any *general movement* for emigration, any where, among our people, but we can see no objection to individuals 'bettering their condition,' so near home."