

LETTER FROM REV. ALEXANDER CRUMMELL.

The following letter addressed to a Committee of the Lynchburg Emigration Society—the members of which are now on their way to Liberia—has been handed to us for publication :

PHILADELPHIA, *October 19, 1865.*

DEAR BRETHREN: I received your favor of the 4th October a week and more ago, and I have delayed answering it, thinking it possible that I might make it convenient to visit you, according to your request, and confer with you. I see now that it will be out of my power thus to do, and I write at once to acknowledge your letter, and to say a few words to you.

I think you are about undertaking a very grave work in emigrating to Africa, but I have a deep conviction that it is a very wise one. For surely nothing can be more solemn than to be the messengers of divine truth to a heathen land, to carry Christianity amid the homes and the hamlets of pagans. And this is indeed your work and vocation in emigrating to the land of our fathers. Possibly you may not have held this up very prominently before your own minds in all your preparation; other more material considerations may have pressed themselves upon your consideration. But God moves and governs the plans and purposes of men, and His hand is upon them, albeit unconsciously to themselves, in all their undertakings. So I verily believe God has given the will to your Christian companions, to go to Liberia, and I believe He will also accompany you with His blessing, to make you and your children, for many generations, His saving instruments as Christians, and hence as lights amid the gross darkness of heathen Africa.

Looked at in this light alone your movement is a very wise one, as well as grave. But when you come to think of all the future of yourselves and children, when you contemplate their temporal status as men and as citizens, it seems to me most judicious to set up your homes in a land where you can have no rivalries of prejudice and caste; where you can reach at one bound, the full stature of free men; where everything in church and State is your own; where you will rank at once among the upbuilders of a new state; where every avenue to preferment is open before you, according to your mental and moral fitness for superiority.

Believing in the correctness of your aims in emigrating to Africa, I shall merely suggest a quiet entrance upon your duties on your arrival in Liberia, in the fear of God, with respect and deference to authority, with pity and sympathy for the heathen, with the sober aims of true men, with the industrious and frugal purposes of honest and aspiring citizens.

I am not certain that I shall sail with you, but please God, we shall meet on the shores of Africa; and I wish you, your wives and children, a very pleasant passage and safe arrival at Monrovia.

I am, brethren, most cordially and truly, your brother and servant,

ALEXANDER CRUMMELL.

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