20th Congress, 1st Session. [Doc. No. 193.]

Ho. of REPS. Navy Dept.

RECAPTURED AFRICANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

TRANSMITTING THE

Information required by a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 5th instant,

IN RELATION TO

THE PRESENT CONDITION AND PROBABLE ANNUAL EXPENSE,

OF THE

United States' Agency for Recaptured Africans

ON THE

COAST OF AFRICA, &c. &c.

Макси 12, 1828.

Referred to Committee of Ways and Means.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTER BY GALES & SEATON.

1828.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

11th March, 1828.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives. of the 5th instant, directing the Secretary of the Navy to lay before the House " such intelligence as his Department may supply, respecting the present condition and probable annual expense of the United States' Agency for recaptured Africans upon the coast of Africa; and to comprehend, therein, any information possessed by said Department, illustrative of the present circumstances of the settlement of free colored people at Liberia, and of those liberated Africans who have been restored to that continent, in pursuance of the act of Congress of 1819 :" the Secretary of the Navy has the honor to lay before the House a copy of two letters from J. Ashmun, who is temporarily the acting agent at Cape Mesurado; one dated 28th August, and the other 22d December, 1827; a schedule of the public buildings and other property, with their estimated value; a statement of the disposition made of the Africans sent from Georgia by the ship Norfolk; and an extract of a letter from Master Commandant J. B. Nicholson, dated 20th February, 1828.

These papers contain all the information, recently received, of the present condition of the Agency, which is represented as prosperous and encouraging.

It will be perceived that all the liberated Africans have, by this time, ceased to be a charge to the United States.

Should no farther captures be made, the only expense, under existing regulations, will be for the care of the public property and the salaries of the agents. It may be proper, however, to state that 121 Africans, landed from the wreck of a Spanish vessel, have lately been seized at Key West, and measures adopted by the Marshal of East Florida for their removal to St. Augustine, preparatory to a trial. The decision respecting them cannot be anticipated, but it is possible that the case may be considered as coming within the acts of Congress; in which event, the duty will devolve upon the Executive of removing them from the United States. Provision was made for such an emergency, in the estimate presented at the commencement of the session.

Accounts of the expenditures at and for the Agency have been furnished to the close of the last year; those subsequently received, have not yet been settled.

Orders were given on the 10th December, not to expend any more money on the public buildings, and the agent was directed to prepare a schedule of them and their cost; this was partly anticipated by one of the accompanying papers, but the current estimated value is substituted for the actual cost, which is probably not more than one-half the amount stated.

A map of the country having been engraved, a copy of it is herewith sent, shewing the position of the several settlements.

The Department is not in possession of any other information, particularly "illustrative of the present circumstances of the settlement of free colored people at Liberia." Reports on that subject are addressed to the Colonization Society; nor has the Department any knowledge, further than what arises from the unavoidable connexion existing between the Agency and the settlement of free people, and which connexion has heretofore been explained in communications to Congress.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SAM'L L. SOUTHARD. The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives.

U. S. AGENCY FOR RECAPTURED AFRICANS,

Cape Mesurado, August 28, 1827.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, through Doct. Todson, per the ship "Norfolk," arrived here on the 20th instant, 41 days from Savannah, of your letter of the 11th of June, and copies of instructions therein referred to: those originally addressed to the late Doct. Peaco, dated April 2, and those given to Doct. Todson, dated the 11th June; all of the present year.

In obedience to those instructions, 1 have received 142 Africans at the Agency, (the number embarked at Savannah having been diminished by two, from the death of a child and an aged paralytic,) and proceeded to dispose of them in the way judged most conducive to their own welfare, and most conformable to the views and instructions of the Department. Under this disposition of these people, of which the particulars shall be forwarded by the return of the Norfolk, threefourths of them will cease to be a charge to the United States at the end of *one month*, and *all* (except the sick) at the end of *six* months. All the adults are to receive lands, and will be admitted to the privileges of colonial settlers at the expiration of 12 months, provided their conduct within that term shall not prove them unworthy of the civil rights attaching to landed property in the colony.

Conformably with the same instructions, I have reorganized the service of the Agency with a view to diminish and reduce, to the lowest estimated amount, its future expenses.

W. L. Weaver, the Book-keeeper and Assistant, appointed by the late Doct. Peaco, is discharged after the 31st of the present month.

The Storekceper, E. Johnson, whose services in keeping, distributing, and exchanging the stores and other property belonging to the Norfolk's cargo, *cannot be dispensed with*, is retained at a compensation of \$333 per annum, for six months from the same date.

A. D. Williams, the former Superintendent, is also retained at a compensation of \$400, for the same term.

The reason of retaining Mr. Williams, is, that his superintendency and other services are absolutely necessary to place the Africans in situations, accustom them to such employments, and form them to such habits, as shall enable them, some from the first, all at the end of six months, to support themselves.

On the supposition that no more Africans are to be sent to the Agency, I beg to submit an estimate of its future expenses in this country—anticipating its expiration on the 1st of September, 1828 exclusive of drafts on the Department previous to the present time, some of which appear not to have been received on the 11th June tast, and of the stores, &c. received per the Norfolk.

[Doc. No. 193.]

ESTIMATE.

1. Compe	ensation due to	W. L. Weave	er, in full fo	r past ser-		
	up to the time					00
2. Do. d	ue to E. Johns	on, Storekee				
up to	the 31st Augus	st, 1827 -	•			00
3. Do. d	ue to E. Johnso	n, Storekeep	er, in full, fo	or services		
to be a	rendered the en	nsuing six in	onths, when	n they are		
	minate -	- · -			166	50
4. Do. di	ue to Griffin, St	eward, and (Clarke, asso	ciate car-	+	
	s, for carpente					
	United States '					
and Se	uperintendent a	t Stocktonto	wn -		200	00
	ie to the same c			and doing		
on Fo	rt Norris Batte	ery. Cane M	csurado		95	00
6. Do. di	ie Nelson's ser	vices as carpo	enter, Stock	ton build-		
ings					250	00
	ted amount of	masons' and	painters' bil	lls for un-		••
	ning and painti				275	00
8. Bills of	f William Dra	ner, employe	d. in 1826.	by Doctor	~	
Peaco.	to build a ve	ry expensive	double nia	zza with		
	an work, quite					
	ing alterations			-	2,400	00
9. Do. of	masons, carp	enters, and pa	ainters. for	work ne-		
cessar"	y to complete t	he new Agen	cy house		300	00
	rpenters and			the large		
	ier boat now or		-		650	00
	als for the same		pairing the (Catherine	400	
	painters, and f					
	tes' ware, gun,				240	00
12. Expense	ses incurred ab	out Fort No:	rris Battery	, for the		
	lion of the Roa				165	00
13. Do. fo:	r compensation	to A. D. Wi	illiams, Sup	erintend-		
ent rec	aptured Africa	ins, February	728,1828 [°]		400	00
14. Inciden	itâls. Agent's j	personal expe	enses during	the year		
	August S1, 18					
	ervices and fixt					
	to foreign nati					
	itary and ordn				236	00
15. Amoun	t of draft for	purchases m	ade of the	schooner		
Eclips	e, in favor of	Wm. De La	Roche. A	ote. The		
	t of this draft					
	hending-		• • • •	-,		
	he 1st item of t	the preceding	estimate,	872 872		
	he 4th do		do	92 00		
Of th	he 6th do	ob 🐇 do	do	120 00		
	ie 8th da	_	do	290 00		
	ie 13th de		do	SO 00		
			-			
			S	604 87 1		

And leaving, after abating this general estimate, \$ 604 871, for purchases properly belonging to item 15 - 998 10

Making, exclusive of my own, or substitute's pay through the year, beginning September 1, 1827, in full, for all future expenses to that date, and supposing the expiration of the Agency at that date, six thousand nine hundred and eighty-five dollars and sixty cents - \$ 5,985 60

In the foregoing estimate I have most anxiously studied economy on the one hand; but I have, also, on the other, not been regardless of the mode of closing a concern of so interesting a nature, situated in a foreign country, which becomes the justice and dignity of the Government of the United States. The actual state of the United States' dwelling, ware, and gun-houses, its fortifications and their armament, the buildings for recaptured Africans, and the bouts. Ec. belonging to the Agency, (worth, at a moderate estimate, \$ 14,000,) requires also a large part of the additional expense included in this estimate, in order to furnish and put them in a condition to fit them either for sale or preservation.

Doctor Todson will furnish himself with a properly authenticated schedule of all the permanent property belonging to the United States at this date, attaching to the Agency, which probably will not materially vary at the year's end.

Having formed the above estimate in the exercise of my best discretion, I beg leave, in conclusion, to observe, that, until further instructions from the Department, to which I beg most respectfully to submit it for approval, I shall regulate my expenditures by it, and, without the most extraordinary necessity, shall not exceed any one of the items.

Respectfully sir,

Your obedient servant, J. ASHMUN.

Hon. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD, Secretary United States' Navy, Washington City.

P. S. A general statement of my accounts since the departure of Doctor Peaco, was forwarded by the United States' schooner Shark, which sailed from Mesurado for the West Indies, 12th February, last, and a full statement of my accounts up to the 30th of April, 1827, went by the Doris, which sailed hence for Baltimore, on the 22d June, last. If my health, which has been bad for two moths past, proves sufficient, I shall forward by Doctor Todson a further statement of the accounts to the date of the Norfolk's arrival, August 20th (inst.) J. ASHMUN.

Understanding a vessel, to be chartered by the American Colonization Society, is expected to sail from the United States for Cape Mesurado some time in Autumn, I have to request that twenty-five thousand of juniper, cypress, or yellow pine shingles may be forwarded by

that conveyance, in order to cover the most valuable of the United States' houses, &c. in this country. The shingles of the country are dear, and too indifferent to last longer than two seasons. Some require to be annually renewed.

J. ASHMUN.

U. S. AGENCY FOR RECAPTURED AFRICANS,

Cape Mesurado, December 22, 1827.

SIR: The United States' ship Ontario, having arrived in Mesurado Roads, last evening, ten days from Sierra Leone, and 41 from Gibraltar, on her return to the United States, will be the bearer of this communication.

I have the satisfaction of being able to state, that all the recaptured Africans at the Agency, are, with nearly every individual of the American settlers, in perfect health, with the exception of nine cases (of which two are re-captured Africans) of ulcerated legs. The sufferers from this malady, have, however, been convalescent since the termination of the rainy season, which the present year was unusually protracted, and had scarcely terminated at the beginning of the present month.

The number of the Africans from Georgia has been diminished by two deaths since the date of my letter per the Norfolk. The first was that of an adult, drowned, or, as there is reason to suppose, destroyed by an alligator while bathing in the Mesurado river, on the 10th of October. The other case is of a child, three years old, carried off by a malignant fever of 30 hours' continuance. About 40 of the whole company from Georgia, have been slightly affected with intermittents. The worst case continued nearly two months, but, generally, the patient recovered in ten days.

These people have proved, far beyond expectation, orderly, neaceable, and industrious. Only a solitary offence deserving corporeal punishment has come to my knowledge, and this grew out of a sudden exasperation of passion. Five marriages have been solemnized; and the irregular connexions of the unmarried strictly prohibited, and, as far as is known, prevented entirely. Seven women, having one or more small children each, not obtaining situations in the families of the settlers, have been employed in the best manner I could situate them in the public service. Three of them wash and cook for the public laborers, the rest have situations in the Colonial Infirmary and Orphan House, where they enjoy the strictest paternal superintendence of the Manager of that establishment, and are fully employed without any actual increase of the sum total of the public expense. It has proved a truly auspicious circumstance, when only the temporal lot of these people, and their restoration to Africa, is considered, that more than 40 of their number have brought with them that best of all personal endowments, a simple and imperfect but serious and practical knowledge of Christianity. The true religion operating on such

minds, exists and displays itself only in its influence on the life and character. And this is only salutary; I trust their good conduct during their probationary year, will secure them the good wishes and patronage of all in the colony whose friendship can hereafter be most useful to them. A part of them is destined at the end of the year to the newly projected settlement at Grand Bassa; another division I hope to provide for, on the Stockton, midway between Caldwell and Monroe, The lands of both districts are good, and equally good. The third or remaining part of the company, consisting of single women and minors, will remain attached to the families of the settlers, and accede, in time, to the privileges of the American emigrants.

The expenditures on account of the Agency, have been regulated strictly according to the estimate forwarded by the schooner Eclipse, under date of August 28th, 1827—no event-having occured, or appearing likely to happen, requiring me to exceed it. The injury sustained by the schooner boat has been repaired, and she is again in active service. We still keep her armed, but have considerably reduced the expense of her ordinary armament and crew this season; which may be increased at pleasure. It is quite necessary she should occasionally shew a gun, but more so that she should fetch good freights of rice and oil for the comfort of the people ; and in this service we hope hereafter chiefly to employ her.

The other unfinished boat is under shelter, and will be completed at leisure, in the best style which our materials and workmen will permit. The great multiplication of decked coasting craft in the colony the present season, both delays the completion of the public boats, by engaging the mechanics, and renders that delay the less prejudicial to the common welfare of the establishment.

The accounts of the Agency for the four months ending on the 31st instant, may be expected by the schooner "Susan," of and for Baltimore, to sail early in January. The actual state of the slave trade on this coast, will, perhaps, be best learnt by the Department, from the report of Captain Nicholson of the "Ontario," who remained several days at the centre of intelligence on this subject, Sierra Leone. On this part of the coast it is certainly reviving. The vessels engaged in it carry, a few, the French, but most the Spanish flag, Most of the adventurers are also Spaniards, many are French, and not a few natives of the United States. In one instance, the United States' flag has been used to protect a slaving 'schooner, whose name, place of outfit, and master, I have not been able, satisfactorily, to ascertain.

Respectfully, Sir,

I have the honor to remain, Your obedient servant, J. ASHMUN.

The Hon. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD, Secretary of the Navy, Washington City.

SCHEDULE of United States' property attached to the Agency for recuptured Africans, Cape Mesurado, and not of a convertible nature.

	Estimated value, Sept. 1, 1827.
1. Large Agency House.—Frame, yellow pine. Brough to Africa in 1823. Surrounded with a double piazza 1 feet deep; of which the upper story is now finishin with Venetian work of excellent workmanship and ma terials. Kitchen attached. The principal dimension are 64 feet long, 40 wide—stories 11 and 9 feet. Wi be finished about the first of January, 1828; and, whe	nt 2 5 1- 18 11
 complete, valued at 2. Granary and Storehouse. — This is a small building, which the uses to which it has hitherto been applied an described by its name : designed to become a storehous to the new Agency house, near which it stands. It 	7,500 00 of se is
two stories—the lower mason-work, roof hipped, pan doors, and the whole building painted. Value - 3. Old Warehouse.—Consists of one ground story, and capacious loft; has a slight frame, secured in every pa by a filling in of logs; clap-boarded, and covered wi country shingles. Dimensions, 40 feet by 16 fee	500 00 a rt th
 Built in 1826. Estimated value A. New Warehouse, Monroe.—This is a completely finis ed and secure warehouse and store, of two stories—t lower is strengthened with a filling in of timbers; t upper constructed of a frame brought from the Unit States. One side of the roof painted. Built in 189 	500 0Ó h- he he ed
and 1827. Value - 5. <i>Magazine</i> .—Stone work, plaistered on the outsid The roof, inside, vaulted with mason work, and cover above with a shingled roof. Its strength is what technically called bomb-proof. Estimated value	1,800 00 le. ed
6. Crown Hill Fortification.—Commenced only. T foundation is laid for a hexagonal tower of two pla forms, each to mount four guns. Its foundation wa are five feet thick; intended for the defence of the ea- ern extension of the settlement of Monroe, where	he at- Ils st- it
stands. Value of foundation and materials collected 7. Central Fort, formerly Fort Stockton.—This wor building, in part, of the materials of Fort Stockto which was demolished, in 1826, for the purpose, is the form of a triangular battery; of which the ang consist of three pentagonal two-story towers, in ea of which are 10 port holes; and these towers joined gether by walls 10 feet high, two thick, and each feet in length, pierced with 15 port-holes. The wo may mount any number of guns, from 6 to 18 : 6 hea	rk, in les ach to- 60 ork

10

and 6 light pieces are its medial complement. Th towers of this work, erected in 1826-7, are the onl part yet accomplished. It defends nearly the whole pre- sent settlement of Monroe, and the mouth of the river Present value	y - - - 950 00
8. Fort Norris Battery.—Erected on the height of Thomp son town for the protection of the outer roadstead. I stands near the summit of Cape Mesurado. on a shell strengthened and levelled by means of an expensive and impenetrable bed and abutment of the heaviest stone work. It has two faces, each of 40 feet, furnished wit a platform of four inches thick sawed stuff; is house	է Ր Հ -
and roofed, and provided with four long 12 pounders fron. Built in 1827. Value, exclusive of the armamen 9. Ordnance, 21 pieces.—Five long twelves. of which on needs remounting; two eighteen pound gunnades, well mounted; three nines, one long, one medium, and on carronade, all mounted; six sixes, one carronade, the others mediums, and two need remounting; five smaller medium guns and swivel pieces—of these, one is a bras	, 800 00 e - e e
six pound field piece, mounted on a travelling carriage and furnished, also, with a revolving carriage to sui either a tower or the deck of a small vessel. Rammers &c. nearly complete. Value 10. Central receptacle for recaptured Africans, Stockton	, t , 2,000 00
town.—Of this building, the part approaching the river is two stories, and finished with Venetian blinds, and in the best style. Intended for the Superintendent's residence. The whole consists of American lumber the length 60 feet, and consists of eight apartments for recaptured Africans, exclusive of the front part de	
scribed. Built in 1826 and 1827. Value - 11. Range No. 1.—Situated near the central receptacle has the form of L, one and a half story, 14 feet wide and 72 feet long. built of the best-American materials and contains a store room and five spacious apartments.	, ; ;
each of which has a loft for recaptured Africans, 1827 12. Range No. 2.—Situated opposite to Range No. 1, Stockton town. Same dimensions materials, and con- struction, except the division of the apartments. Value the same theil 1007	•
the same : built 1827 - 13. Two Log Buildings at Thompson town—Each 36 feet long, and one and a half story in height; built, in 1824-5, of African materials, 8 rooms 14. Two Schooners. One finished, but damaged; the other	750 00
on the stocks. Estimated value of both : one rigged	2,200 00
Л. А	\$20,225 00 SHMUN.

STATEMENT of the disposition made, and actual situation (September 14th) of the 142 recaptured Africans, received at the Agency for recaptured Africans, Cape Mesurado, from Dr. G. P. Todson, United States' Agent, by the Ship "Norfolk;" in conformity with instructions communicated to J. Ashmun, from the United States' Navy Department.

Description of recaptured Africans.	Where Situated.	Terms.	Wages per annum.	Business.
One woman and two small children, Two women,	In the family of E, Johnson, Same family, Same family, In the family of Jos. Blake, Same family, James C. Barbour's family, H. S. Nelson's do - do do do - do do do - J. J. Barbour's do - do do do - Geo. R. M'Gills' do - W. W. Steward's do - F. S. Deveny's do - do do - do do - do - do - do - do	1 year, - 1 year, - 1 year, - 4 years, - 4 years, - 4 years, - 1 year, - 3 years, - 1 year, - 1 year, - 1 year, - 1 year, - 1 year, - 3 years, - 1 year, - 1 year	No compensation, 12 dollars each, Each 30 dollars, Instruction in - 12 dollars, - Shares in - 96 dollars, - Each 30 dollars, Instruction in - Each 30 dollars, Instruction in - 30 dollars, - 12 dollars, - 12 dollars, - Shares of produce 30 dollars, - 30 dollars, - 50 dollars, -	do do do Boat building. General work. Farming. Carpentering. do Housewifery. Farming. Sewing, &c. Farming. General work. Business, General work. of a farm.
One man and wife,	Geo. Mason,	1 year, -	42 dollars, -	General work.

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Three men		do	- 1 1 year	50 dollars each,	Sawing.
One boy,			- 4 years, -	Instruction in -	Blacksmithing.
One female			- 1 year, -	do -	Housewifery.
One female,	-		- 1 year, -	12 dollars, -	General work.
Two men, and two wives,	_		- 1 year, -	42 dols. each pair,	do
One man	_		- 1 year, -	30 dollars.	do
One girl,	-		- 4 years, -	Education	
One man and invalid wife,			- 1 year	30 dol's. the pair.	
•	-		- 1 year, -	12 dollars, -	General work.
Que woman,	-		- 11 years, -	Education	Concrat works
One girl, One man,	-		- 1 year, -	30 dollars, -	General work.
5 internet			- 2 years	Instruction in the	
One boy,	-	Jun Ormins do	- 2 yoars, -	Insu decion in the	trade.
One boy		John Clark's do	- 2 years, -	do	do
	-		- 4 & 1 years,		40
One young man-one girl, -	-	Lewis Crook S du	- gui years,	dols., the woman	General work.
Two females		Tamas Dhillinta da	- 1 year		do
Two females,	•	oumes Yumps as	,	Each 30 dollars,	do
Two men,	-	40 40	- 1 year, -		do
One man,	-	Burwell Barbarbon,	- 1 year, -	30 dollars, -	do
Two men,	· -			30 dollars each,	
One young woman, 📜 -	-		- 1 year, -	Instruction in -	Sewing, &c.
One do	-		- 1 year, -		do
One do	-		- 1 year, -	do -	do
One girl,	-		- 3 years, -	do in sewing,	
Two men-one invalid, -	-		- 1 year, -	\$ 30 the able man,	General work.
One boy and his young sister,	-		- Till of age,	Instruction, -	Education.
Two men,	-		- 1 man -	30 dollars éach,	General work.
One boy,	-				Boat building.
One man,	-	Mrs. Lawrenies' do	- 1 year, -	30 dollars, -	General work.

Description of recaptured Africans.		Where situated.		Terms.		Wages per annum.	Business.	
One woman, - One man, One woman and small One man and wife, One dumb man, - One diseased woman, One man, Two men, One girl, One girl, One girl, One man and wife, Two men, Man and woman,	child, -	-	Allen James' fan do Wm. Holanger's do do Wm. Draper's do Mrs. Langford's John W. Barbour's M. Brosier's A. Harris' M. Jordan's	- nily, - do - do - do - do - do - do - do - do	1 year, 1 year,	-	30 dollars, do - Mother's wages go \$ 30 the pair, - Support, - do - 120 dollars, - 30 dollars each, - Education. do - \$ 42 the pair, 30 dollars each, 30 dollars each, 30 dollars each,	General work. do for child's sup't. General work. do do Carpenter's do. General work. General work. do do
One youth-M	• •	-	J. James'	do -	1 year, 5 years,	-	Education and in-	Carpenter's work.
One man, One man and young w One woman, - One man and wife, One invalid woman, One man, wife and ch One woman and child, Ten men, & 3 wives, One idiot	ild,	- - -		do - do -		• • • •	S0 dollars, - S0 and 12 dollars, 12 dollars, - & S0 the pair, - Nothing, - S0 dollars the trio, Nothing. Each man \$ 50 -	General work. do Of scamstress. Farming. General work. do do do

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RECAPITULATION.

- 60 men—Placed in families, on wages, or, if invalids, to receive their support in part, or in whole; or as apprentice to some useful trade.
- 41 women,
- 6 children-similarly situated,
- 10 men,
- 3 women, Employed at liberal wages, by the Government 1 idiot, of the Colony.
- 2 children,
- 19 women and children awaiting situations.
- 142
- _____

J. ASHMUN.

Monroe, Sepf. 14, 1827.

Extract of a letter from Muster Commandant John B. Nicholson, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

NEW YORK, Feb. 20, 1828.

⁶⁵ On the 11th, I left Sierra Leone, and arrived at Cape Mesurado on the 21st of December, where I remained until the evening of the 25th. The opinion I had heard expressed at Sierra Leone, was confirmed, and I have no doubt, that the Colony will become of great importance to the benighted natives; for they cannot but perceive the great advantages their American brethren have over them from civilization, and will, I cannot but hope, endeavor to place themselves and children upon the same footing; for they must perceive it is not color alone that gives preponderance, but civilization and the blessings of religion.

"I cannot express more strongly the growing prosperity of the Colony, than that eight of the crew, (colored tradesmen,) after visiting the shore, petitioned to be discharged, for the purpose of joining their brethren as permanent settlers. I granted their request, presuming it will meet the approbation of the Department, as they landed with money and cloths to the amount of nearly two thousand dollars, which will enable them to commence their several trades, without expense to the Colony."