

The privilege was also granted us of naming the successor to the throne, who was acknowledged and crowned previous to the interment of his predecessor, an innovation on the African rules such as has never before been known or permitted on this Coast. William I. alias Yellow Will, or Peroh Neh, now fills the throne, and we stand pledged to sustain and protect him from sedition, conspiracy and rebellion, as long as he keeps faith with our government. Yellow Will is well known to Dr. Hall, as one of the most kindly disposed and influential men in the Country. For natural abilities he is equalled by but few of our American Colonists.

Please receive the long promised copy of the treaty for the partial suppression of the saucy wood ordeal; which has already enabled us to save nine persons from almost certain death. The natives occupying the towns near us are divided into clans, between whom feuds have existed for ages, their malice is gratified by bringing accusations against each other, which results in the accused being subjected to the ordeal:—should he recover from the effects of the poison, he bides his time, and seeks revenge, should he be destroyed, his relatives feel bound to seek an opportunity for retaliation on the family of his accusers, thus there is a tendency to the perpetuation of the system. Whenever we have rescued an individual of one clan, it follows almost invariably that we are required to perform a similar kindness for their opponents—in such instances we are sure of the aid and influence of the interested relatives. Without the natives being aware of it, we manage to make their feuds contribute to the success of our humane undertakings,—we trust that through providence, this government will soon be able to put a stop entirely to this murderous custom.

The Protestant Episcopal Mission is doing *much* real good in Liberia, and are emulating the Methodists, whose influence and usefulness has hitherto been predominant. We wish *all* success in their good work.

You will receive a copy of the census of the Colony, taken November last, it is full as to numbers, but is otherwise incomplete. * * * * *

Feb. 1.—The returns made by the Sheriff of the election held on the 30th inst. reports one hundred and twenty-two votes cast in favor of independence, and not one opposing vote. In a few weeks, I propose making arrangements to enable the citizens to elect delegates to a convention to form the constitution, &c. * * *

I remain very respectfully, your obedient servant, SAM'L F. MCGILL.

HARPER, CAPE PALMAS, February 9th, 1853.

By a public vote on the 31st ultimo, the citizens of this Colony declared their wish for the early establishment of an Independent Government. The vote in its favor was unanimous. As a further evidence of their determination to undertake the duties of self-government, they have made it a special request that your Agent here would make arrangements to enable them to enter upon the election of nine Delegates to meet in Convention for the purpose of framing a Constitution for the proposed government, and for the election of two Commissioners to visit the U. States, to confer with the Board on the subject of the future relations that must exist between the new government, and the Maryland State Colonization Society. By the request of the people, on Monday the 13th inst. this election will take place.

The Board will be pleased to learn, that amidst all the differences of views and opinions consequent upon, and almost inseparable from the great changes that are in contemplation, the meetings of the citizens are conducted in the most orderly and quiet manner, and the existing laws and authorities are respected.

I remain, very respectfully, your obed't servant, SAM'L F. MCGILL.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers

1856