MARYLAND COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

CTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MANAGERS OF THE STATE FUND.

Vol. I.

Baltimore, June, 1837.

No. 10.

When gratuitous, please circulate.

WEST AFRICA.

WILSON.

to the Missionary Herald.

MR. WILSON'S VISIT TO THE INTERIOR OF suspended and held to its place, resembling, in to move our feelings, and make us think that Cavally before night. As we approached the THE COUNTRY.

Country, Productions, and Towns on the Cavally river.

o'clock, we left home, our company consisting glossy black, caused by the smoke of the fires dense fog, and the air was cold and chilly. landed at Cavally, and were heartily welof four native men, two boys, and one Ameri- made on the floor. The loft is a depot for Neh had assembled all his chief men, and sent comed by my friend king Baphro. can, and myself. The day was favourable for rice and other articles of food. It is ascended for me to make in their presence a royal dash. walking, although cloudy. Our course lay by a ladder, which has a joint in the middle, I saw a bullock and a goat standing near the fatiguing walk on the beach of twenty miles, east of north-east. After crossing the little and when not wanted, can be lashed up out of king, and knew that they were intended as a in good health and spirits. river which runs into the sea near the cape, the way. Over head you will almost always present. I took my seat, and a dead silence In our tour we performed a circuit of ninety about two miles from its mouth, we passed see a large number of bundles of rice, well ensued for several minutes, the chief having or one hundred miles, passed eighteen native over a rolling hilly country for several miles, smoked, but not injured. There are also his eyes fixed on the ground. After a while settlements, and were absent four days .and entered the rice-fields of the native people | frames or swings suspended from the loft, in | he raised his head and told my head-man that | Neh's town we supposed to be thirty-five of Cape Palmas. In passing through these, which the women pile up their fire-wood very the calf and goat were for me, to do with miles from Cape Palmas. we were not a little surprised both at the ex- earefully. It is a point of great ambition with them as I pleased. I thought this the time to tent of cultivation and the quality of the rice. | them to stow it away most neatly, and exhibit | make my present, and requested the king to | Journal of MR. WILSON ON AN EXCURSION Portions of the rice through which our path | the largest quantity. They also show their | keep his seat till I could get it ready. My lay had attained its full growth, and was quite attachment to their husbands by the order and present consisted of four yards of red flannel, as good as any that I had ever seen in the rice | neatness in which their respective houses are | four cotton handkerchiefs, a few beads, lookcountry of South Carolina or Georgia. After kept. But the point of ambition with the men ing-glass, razor, and knife. The articles below, was performed in the latter part of we left these, we commenced what may be is to make the greatest possible display of were carefully scrutinized by the king as they October, 1836. regarded as a complete specimen of African | their crockery ware. And for this purpose, | were handed out and accepted. We then travelling. Our road was a mere foot-path. all the mugs, bowls, wash-basins, plates, etc. struck hands, and the grand palaver was set ordinarily not more than ten or twelve inches are suspended around the lower part of the between king Neh and his missionary guest. wide, and so entirely covered over by grass | wall in horizontal lines; above these a large | The people, however, were surprised and | A short time since Teddah, king of the and shrubs, most of the way, as not to be | number of wooden bowls, of various sizes and | exceedingly disappointed, that we brought no | Bolobo country, visited Cape Palmas, to see traced, except by those who have frequently shapes, are arranged in a similar manner. | tobacco; and the king himself told my head- and to shake hands with the American people. travelled it.

tive settlement, and were received with the of wood for a pillow. And these are all they of Africans for this article is beyond all mea- ever seen a specimen of the architecture of usual welcome of an African community. have to offer a stranger. In the early part of sure excessive. They apply it mostly to their civilized nations. The feelings of interest The village occupies a handsome site, and is the evening, these houses are close and warm, nasal organs, occasionally smoke, but never and curiosity, therefore, with which they must surrounded by a double wall. It has no king but towards morning they prove a very plea | chew. As soon as you enter a town, you will have approached this settlement can be more of its own, but is subject to a larger town in sant shelter against the cold and chilly dews. see hundreds of women and children twitching easily imagined than described. In this case, the neighbourhood. Its population we supposed to be about three or four hundred. The or twelve hundred. The people do not differ If it were proper to use this article in our to interest the king and his people in our mishead-man invited us to his house, and offered | very materially from our neighbours on the | dealings with the natives, the expenses of a | sion; and accordingly took what I knew would us some palm-wine, with a request to spend beach, except that they wear long beards, missionary establishment might be lessened at be the most favorable means of effecting it, by the afternoon and night with him. We de- less cloth, and perhaps have less cunning and least by one half. clined to stay, and after resting a half hour, duplicity. In the morning they brought a I conversed with the king about establishing with a promise that I would, as soon as health and allowing his people to gratify their curio- deranged man, in stocks, to know if we could a school in his town, to which he assented, and other circumstances permitted, visit him sity by gazing upon us, we resumed our jour- do any thing for him. And I may make the and said he would afford every facility and in his own country. He received the present

by a noisy crowd of children.

afternoon, lay entirely through rice fields. spoken around us, but can be easily understood trading establishment. At one time, I at try. The gratitude he manifested was very The country was open and high, and we were by our native boys. The place externally in- tempted to fasten his attention and that of different from any thing I had ever seen among strongly reminded of certain sections of our dicates health, and may be an eligible situa- many others upon the claims of God. But the beach people. For, whatever obligation native land. At about four o'clock, we arrived tion for a christian school, when we are ready when my own feelings were deeply engaged, you may impose upon one of the men, he will at a beautiful town by the name of Grambah- to establish them. In the morning we had an and I began to hope that theirs were also, he seldom acknowledge it, lest he should be held da, where we staid the first night. In many early breakfast, and after I had made our host abruptly changed the conversation, by making responsible for its discharge; and should you respects it excels every other town in this a 'dash' of a few cotton handkerchiefs, a razor, some inquiry about a trading establishment make him a present, he will carefully conceal part of the country for beauty and for the and some beads, we took our leave and pro- that Dr. Hall proposed some months pre- any gratitude he may feel with the hope of cleanliness and openness of its streets. It is ceeded on our way. situated on rising ground, and is surrounded 7th. Our course to-day lay pretty nearly in In the cool of the morning, Mr. Woods and hearted man had imbibed no such logic, and by a high spiked wall. The outskirts are the same direction as yesterday. For several myself visited two other towns belonging to he did not leave my house until he had obtainovergrown with beautiful groves of lime and miles our path lay through fields of rich and Neh, neither more than half a mile from his ed repeated promises that I would visit Bolobo. sour orange trees; and as they were laden with ripe finit, their beauty may be more ea- it became worse and more difficult than any of these three settlements to be about two fulfil my engagement. My company consistsily imagined than described. As we ap- part of our journey the day before. proached the gate of the town, which is nothing more than a hole three feet high, and Neh's Town-Scenery and villages adjacentwide enough to admit a full grown man, we | passed a company of youngsters, quietly engaged at their games and simple music. As soon, however, as we entered the enclosure, one yell started hundreds of other voices, and last night. It consists of twenty houses, and back again a full equivalent; and how much in circumference, and a population probably of brought around us the whole town's people, so probably about one hundred inhabitants. We it differs from bartering, you may determine about 2,500 or 3,000 souls. Between Bolobo thronging our way as to make it difficult for stopped only a few minutes to rest, and pro- for yourself.

us to reach the chief's residence.

ed under a shady tree in front of his majesty's | numerous lofty palms. About one o'clock we houses, to wait his appearance. Here we reached the first settlement pertaining to king induced to believe that it is true. Several The first five miles of our journey lay along were walled around by a solid body of human | Neh's domains. The remainder of our way beings, excluding all fresh air, and almost to Denah (Neh's Town) lay entirely through hesitatingly attested the fact, and a man who way to Denah; after which our path (for it deafening us with their unrestrained and loud | rice farms. For a mile or two we made a clamours. After waiting fifteen or twenty gradual ascent, when the country became declared, without knowing that I had been northerly direction. About eight miles from minutes, a man (their king has recently died) hilly and exceedingly beautiful. Indeed, I made his appearance, with a fowl in his hand, have seldom seen any section of country more people in a town that morning, in consultation colony and entered the country of Karvah. and apparently not a little embarrassed. He beautiful. On reaching the summit of some whether they should eat a criminal under ar- The country which in June presented so rich knew not whether to shake hands or give the high hill, we were often constrained to halt rest or not. It is said that they eat none but and verdant a harvest of rice is now over-run fowl first. I relieved his embarrassment, for a time and survey the beauty and grandeur criminals and captives of war. But every with grass and weeds, and in a few months however, by putting my hand upon the chick- of the surrounding scenery. Its enchantment feeling heart will regard this as a melancholy more every vestige of former culture will be en, and requesting him to prepare it for our was heightened, doubtless, by the richness attainment in the annals of cruelty and inhu- entirely obliterated, so rapid is the growth of supper. After hearing the object of our ex- and verdure of the rice which crowned the manity. Oh! how degraded and ruined man- vegetation. The soil in the southern section cursion, and signifying his approbation, he ap- numberless hills around us, and we could kind are, without the gospel of Jesus Christ! of Karvah's territories is decidedly the best I pointed us a house to lodge in, and left us, for scarcely realize that we were in the country On the other hand, how cheering the thought, have yet seen in this part of Africa; and it is From this, however, we were anxious enough | reached the beautiful town of Denah; and I from the lowest depths of ruin to glory and ever, which is rather to be attributed to the to be freed. I begged the people to go away may say that my anticipations, from the de- immortality! Pray that it may have free economy of nature, than to the policy of the a while at least, that we might have a little | scription which Dr. Hall had given of it, were | course in this unhappy land. fresh air and quiet. To this they strenuously | fully realized. objected, saying, in the language of my inter- Neh was not at home when we arrived, but | voyage down the river, and made rapid pro- axes, they would long since have mouldered preter, that they were not willing for that pa- returned soon after. His head wife, however, gress, as the current was very strong. The in the dust. The people seldom cultivate the laver, as I would go away early the next day, threw open her house, and received us very settlements are numerous, but none very con- same portion of land two successive years, and they would not have another opportunity | cordially. Here again we were thronged | siderable in size. We stopped only at one | owing to the rapid growth of weeds and grass to see me. It was in vain that we entreated, almost to suffocation; but our royal hostess, town, and that was near the 'Grand Devil where the large timber has been felled, and and we had quietly to submit. Had we re- in this case, had authority sufficient to clear oracle.' I did not visit it, however, for seve- also to the imperfect manufacture of their sorted to our house, they would have followed the house and afford us a little quiet. We ral reasons. That this oracle exerts a directly agricultural implements. us, and made that an intolerable retreat. A were also furnished with warm water to bathe little before night, the head-man sent for me our feet, which proved very serviceable and one will doubt who has visited one of their villages of Giddodo, Boobly, and Saurekah. and 'dashed' me a sheep that he held between refreshing. The king gave us his best house settlements. The town which we visited is About ten o o'clock in the morning, we his legs. I thanked him, and requested that for our quarters, and if I may judge from the the image of poverty and wretchedness, and reached a small dirty village of the name of

fast at an early hour, which was accordingly may be regarded in this section of the country | their guardian spirit. Our native men jocose-

man's ears and eyes. The walls of the base and humanity. About one o'clock we reached the first na- Their only bedding is a thin mat, and a block tobacco the next time I came. The fondness seen the face of a white man, nor had they

these people is not uncommon.

verdant rice. After we left these, however, own residence. We estimated the population I left home on the twenty-fifth instant to

Return down the Cavally.

village, subject to the town where we staid of such articles, that they are to be 'dashed' ces an extent of country about forty-five miles ceeded for an hour or two through a wooded After winding about a while, we were seat- | country, remarkable for nothing except for its while, to the intense gaze of his people. of an uncivilized people. At two o'clock we that this gospel has efficacy to raise mankind likewise well timbered—a circumstance, how-

it might be killed and prepared for our break- quantity of china which ornamented it, he | would be called an unquestionable domain of done, and we retired to our house for rest. as an opulent chief. His chief woman, to ly remarked, that these people were proverbi-In general, the interior of the houses of the whom allusion has already been made, de ally called the hungry people,' because they EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF MR. | natives affords a more comfortable abode than serves more particular notice. In dignity of | would not cultivate their rice as other people is indicated by the exterior. When you con- manners, energy, and stability of character, I | did, but were all the while 'crying' to the It affords us much pleasure to lay before template one of these houses from without, think she excels any native female I have be- devil to help them, and depending upon the the readers of the journal, Mr. Wilson's ac- you are reminded of a small pyramid resting fore met in Africa. Ordinarily a transient offerings of pilgrims for their support. I could upon a base not sufficiently large for it. But | visitor would suppose that women had no con- not pass along their settlements without a count of his visits into the interior of the when you enter its low doors, you are sur- cern in domestic matters; but in this case our feeling conviction that they were entirely in country. Every new development of the prised that you can stand erect in any part, hostess showed, without appearing officious the power of the Evil One, in deed as well as character of Africa renders it an object of and would compare your situation to the inte- or giving offence to any one, herself to be sole in name. Oh may the grace of God speedily increasing interest. We think no intelligent rior of a hollow pyramid. The hollow, how- mistress of her house, and at the same time change their hearts and illumine their darkmind will regret the time spent in reading Mr. ever, is not continued up to the apex. A discovered all the respect for her husband that ness. house constructed on this scale would be liable | could be desired. Indeed, the kindly feeling | We were hailed by the settlers of every Wilson's journal, for which we are indebted to be overturned by every breath of wind. and conjugal attachment which bound this village we passed, and at several places There stand four posts in the centre, support- pair together contrasted so strongly with what strongly urged to stop and drink palm wine; ing a circular scaffold, upon which the roof is we are accustomed to see in this country, as but we were anxious to reach the town of some measure, a pointed cap which covers a | we were treading the precincts of civilization | mouth of the river, I was much reminded of

with a mortar made of clay and cow-dung. | ing enjoyed a comfortable and refreshing | some unsurpassed, rather unequalled by any June 6th, 1836. This morning, at eight The other parts present the appearance of night's rest. The town was enveloped in a that I ever before saw. About sunset we

ney, accompanied a long way from the town | remark, that derangement of mind among | convenience in his power to forward it; but | with undisguised pleasure, and appeared surat the same time I had reason to suspect that prised and equally as much pleased at the Our journey, during the remainder of the Their language differs a little from that he was much more desirous of having a prospect of having a white man visit his counviously.

my native Carolina. On both sides of the or body of the house are plastered around 8th. We rose early this morning, after hav- river, there were large fields of beautiful rice,

We reached home on the next day, after a

FROM CAPE PALMAS TO BOLOBO.

The excursion of which an account is given

Teddah's Visit to Cape Palmas-Karvah's Country.

The floors are of clay-hard, smooth, and dry. man to tell me privately, that I must bring | Neither he nor any one of his suite had ever We supposed the population to be about ten | their noses, and thereby begging for tobacco. | as in all similar ones, I thought it expedient making him a present, and accompanying it extracting something more. But this simple-

thousand souls. On our return we were again | ed of Bello, as interpreter, two native men, 'dashed' with two sheep, one of which we or- and two boys to carry my baggage. Bolobo dered to be killed and prepared for our break- is a section of country lying east of north fast. The other, with the king's presents, from Cape Palmas. Kay, the residence of were to be sent home by the route we had Teddah, and the chief settlement, is distant About eleven o'clock we reached a small come. It is always expected by the donors about thirty miles from the Cape. It embraand Cape Palmas there is a people known by I made particular inquiry about a report, the name of Karvahs, speaking the same diawhich we frequently hear, of there being | lect with those of Bolobo, but under a sepaman-eaters not far from this place; and I am | rate government, and much more numerous. men here, of whom I made inquiry, have un- the same road I travelled last June, on my had just returned from that section to Denah, | deserves no other name) led us nearly in a inquiring on the subject, that he had left the | the Cape we crossed the territorial line of the inhabitants; for had the trees not been enor-About twelve o'clock we commenced our mously large, and too formidable for their little