MARYLAND COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

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

Vol. I.

Baltimore, October, 1839.

No. 33.

When gratuitous please circulate.

We rejoice to see that the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, have recently sent out another missionary and his wife | so numerous as they were five years ago. They | ponds with the rude and wild aspect of the counto join the Rev. John Leighton Wilson, at Cape | have not more furniture in their houses than they try. The natives of Drewin have, from time | modified by the fact that he was one of the chief Palmas, Western Africa. We make the follow- had then; and in the whole community, with the almost immemorial, maintained the reputation, agents in capturing one of the vessels above mening extract from the Missionary Herald for Sep- there is not a single garden, whilst in neighbour- of other parts of the coast, of being the most bar- on the coast where gold is offered for sale. Their tember: -'For Western Africa. On the 27th ing villages of similar size, it is not uncommon barous and savage people on the western coast of chief trade, however, consists in palm oil and July, the Rev. Alexander E. Wilson, M. D., for- to find fifty or one hundred acres, in the immedi- Africa. A Krooman, (I apply this word, as is ivory. They also offer for sale a larger quantity merly connected with the Mission to the Zulus, ate vicinity of their towns, occupied as gardens. usually done of late years, to the maritime inha- of live stock than any other place on this part Southern Africa, embarked at New York, with his wife, for Cape Palmas, in the brig Sarah his wife, for Cape Palmas, in the brig Sarah Elizabeth, Captain Saxton.'

Western Africa.

LETTER FROM MR. WILSON, dated February 7th,

Printing executed—Seminary and Schools.

Respecting the printing executed at Cape Palcopies printed since the introduction of the press separate books and tracts, amounting, if numbered on continuously together, to 250 pages; and largement of the mission. making the aggregate amount of pages printed John, and some other shorter portions of the scriptures, a book of hymns, a vocabulary of the Grebo language, and a grammar, are included. Of the schools Mr. Wilson remarks:

The number of pupils, male and female, in the | hope of deriving benefit from the voyage. seminary, is about forty-five; in addition to which, we have recently received ten children of the poses. The number of boarding scholars is less than was contemplated, in consequence of our not being able in the season to lay in a sufficient stock having recently died, and the colony being left in | tory of the Maryland Colony, and is about twentya state of almost entire destitution in point of | five miles from Cape Palmas. received indefinitely, to be qualified as teachers | day ashore preaching to the natives, but was dis- | grade.

phy of their own country. Most of them have amassing a fortune where he might enjoy it with seize an English brig.

in Grebo. and we find them in many respects much more most dignified and respectable natives I have ever only as one grade above those of Drewin in the exceeds very considerably the sum above mentractable and docile than we expected them to be. seen on any part of the coast. He is a spare made | scale of improvement; and the same precautions | tioned. They exchange their gold and ivory for Eight of them give evidence of a change of heart, man, and about six feet high. His complexion is against an attack is put in force here as at Drewin. foreign goods, but they have ascertained the value and have been received as members of the church. nearly a jet black, and his general demeanor sober Only one out of this number has caused us any and dignified. He was always dressed in Euro-overwhelming numbers, and within the last twenty-make more than twenty or twenty-five per cent. disappointment, and this one we hope will not pean clothes, and his wardrobe must have been five years they have captured two vessels, and by the exchange. They bring off all their proprove irreclaimably wayward. There has been | well supplied, for we never saw him in the same | murdered their crews. They are now more pa- | duce in canoes; and as the landing is very bad, and nothing like very special interest on the subject | suit more than once. His last visit to the vessels | their canoes are constantly capsizing, they find it of religion for some months past in the institu- was the most imposing, for he had decked himself | trade with them; but they have, as the conse- necessary to attach their gold very firmly to their tion. Still we would hope that there are a few in his very best, consisting of blue trowsers, a quence of their folly and guilt, to submit to some | bodies, and a tooth of ivory is always fixed to a who are silently inquiring what they must do to handsome naval coat, and a new crimson silk hat; very mortifying restrictions in their intercouse buoy. The town of Lahou is situated on both be saved. The tracts and books we are printing but withal barefooted! As a native of the coun- with white men. Only one man from each canoe sides of a river of the same name, the two settleare received and read with a great deal of avidity, try, he is not less remarkable for his honesty and is allowed to come aboard, and the sailors and ments of which have been at hostilities for some and they appear to understand religious truth com- fair dealing. Captain Lawlin had no fears in Kroomen are stationed around the bulwarks of time past. The site of the town is indicated by spent much more time in acquiring a knowledge of the latter than the former. One of our pupils has recently been intrusted with a school, but has not yet continued it sufficiently long to give decided evidence of his ability. We have had one christian marriage among our pupils, and we trust we shall soon have others of a similar cha-

The people generally are rather negligent about attending preaching, and during the working season the attendance does not often exceed fifty or sixty. Our night meetings have generally been well attended, but are discontinued for the present in consequence of a large portion of the people | well furnished with decanters of water, rum, and occasions to its full extent, and with no small from childhood. having removed with their families to their rice | wine. In another corner stood a handsome French | share of pleasure; and the natives, on the other | A man who calls himself King Peter, stands at as the people return. I am now able in preach- music, Krako himself acting the part of organist. that they deserved nothing better. knowledge of the bible, of Jesus Christ, and of the way of salvation, but this knowledge is not very minute, and it is not obvious that it exerts any very considerable influence over their minds. In a temporal point of view, we do not see that there has been any important advances. Ninetenths of the women are still to be seen in a state of almost entire nudity. The men, with the exception of some fifteen or twenty who have gowns and wear them on stated occasions, continue pretty | sell. nearly in the same condition as they were when we found them five years ago. Their mode of living in dense and compactly settled villages is doubtless a material barrier to their improvement. So long as this is the case, they must be subject to numberless broils among themselves, suffer from pilfering, and will not be able to raise stock and poultry, or to cultivate gardens. And this we fear will be the case just so long as they are parallel to each other intersect the sea-coast at contiguous to an American settlement, which they | right angles; and the chief part of them rise regard with suspicion and dread. In relation to | *In this journal the names given by foreigners are the native people immediately about the Cape, retained. THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T

actually been retrograde. Large numbers of them | dred and three hundred feet. The whole of the | short man, perhaps not more than five feet, but are degrading themselves into hucksters and petty | country as seen from the sea is highly picturesque | dignified and affable. He speaks intelligible Engtraders. Their herds of cows, sheep, goats, and and wild. other domestic animals are not now by one-half The character of the inhabitants too, corresexception of one belonging to my interpreter, not only with foreigners, but with the inhabitants | tioned. St. Andrews is the most westerly point

ted the establishment of a new station on the lee- what they call saucy Drewin. If he ships as a ward coast, east of Cape Palmas, and not far from labourer on any part of the windward coast, and centuries ago, occupied the country around the Cape Coast Castle, having reference to the exten- | the vessel is to complete her voyage to the lee- | mouth of the Cavally river, and fought their way sion of missionary labour among the Ashantee ward and to sail thence to Europe or America, he to their present place of abode for the advantages and other tribes in that vicinity. Preparatory to requires the captain to give him a pledge, either of a more extensive trade. The people were once this step, which it has been the intention of the to send him back to his own country by another extensively engaged in the slave-trade, and pre-Board to take as soon as suitable missionaries and vessel, or to take him past saucy Drewin before vious to its abolition by the British parliament, assistants could be found to engage in the work, he is put ashore. mas, Mr. Wilson states that the whole number of Mr. Wilson was authorized to make an excursion Very few vessels, even to the present day, ven- for many years past been discontinued. Our stay there in 1837, was 10,872, embracing thirteen offered, for the purpose of collecting information only a few men are allowed to come aboard at a accurate and particular information about the cus-

181,532. The gospel according to Matthew and board the American ship Emperor, Captain R. past to anchor off their town and trade with them, a most eligible and inviting place for a mission coast. As the health of Mrs. Wilson had been On the occasion of our visit he safely dispensed and there is nothing which more effectually modiimpaired by long-continued confinement in her | with the ordinary show of defence, but was care- | fies and blunts the savage dispositions of Africans, school, she accompanied her husband with the ful not to allow too many to come aboard at the than to throw yourself upon their protection and

Of the inquiries and observations made by Mr.

Rockboka-Character of Krako.

than usual. It is of an oblong square, perhaps were authorised to apply the soles of their feet or houses. Krako's town Tuesday morning.

Drewin-High Drewin-St. Andrews.

During the day we passed what is called the Tahou country, and as we sailed slowly along and quite near to the beach, canoes from the little villages along the shore were constantly shooting out to the vessel, and brought various articles to

Drewin is the next country, and as we approached this, we felt that we were entering a land of strangers. The face of the country, its productions, the appearance of the natives, their dress, books, language, the structure of their canoes, etc. were all novel and interesting to us. The land even from the waters' edge, rises into high and rocky bluffs. Lofty ridges running

For some time past the Board have contempla- | Castle in a small canoe, were it not for passing | large, and are constructed in boat shape.

along the coast, when an opportunity should be ture to trade at saucy Drewin; and when they do at St. Andrews was too short for me to acquire and otherwise opening the way for such an en- | time, and every precaution is used to prevent any | toms and habits of the people. successful attempt to capture the vessel. Captain On the 27th of February last he embarked on Lawlin has made it his practice for several years are, I should nevertheless regard St. Andrews as Lawlin, engaged in a trading voyage along the and enjoys their confidence in a remarkable degree. | station. The people are anxious to have a school, same time.

Wilson while absent from his station the following along the sea-coast about twenty miles, and is and assistance to make them one of the happiest colonists, as day scholars, and for temporary pur- extracts from his journal will give some account. occupied by a considerable number of small vil- people in the world. lages. I could form no rational conjecture of the amount of population, as most of their villages Our first place of anchoring was at Rockboka, were entirely concealed from view by the dense of rice for their support. The reason of our re- which place we reached about eleven o'clock the forests in which most of them were located. It insurrection, which was planned and nearly carceiving the children of colonists into the schools next morning, [Feb. 28th, 1839.] Rockboka is is my impression, however, that Drewin is rather was in consequence of both of their teachers | the eastern limit of what is regarded as the terri- sparsely populated. It affords for trade palm oil, camwood, and large quantities of live-stock, which | W. were placed in imminent danger. By a procan generally be bought at a cheap rate. Those schools. The children alluded to as attending | March 3. Sabbath. I had not sufficiently re- of the people we saw were a little above the me- the life of all mercifully preserved. our schools are under the special patronage of covered from sea-sickness to be able to preach on dium size of Africans, were poorly clad, and had the agent of the colony, four of them have been | board the ship, and intended to have spent the | decided features of being savages of the worst |

for the colony, and the remaining six to continue appointed in getting an interpreter, and did not go The eastern limit of this district is called High from Cape Palmas. It is the largest native settleuntil another school can be established for the ashore. During the next day all hands on board Drewin, the inhabitants of which are still more ment directly on the sea-beach along the whole were busily engaged in receiving and weighing savage even than those of saucy Drewin. The coast of Western Africa It is improperly named, Of the members of the seminary, there are camwood that had been purchased by Krako, the country presents the appearance of table land, however, for there is little or no appearance of about twenty who can read with ease and fluency man from whom the town receives its name, for and is open and apparently cultivated. A large any thing like a cape. And with the exception books both in their own and in the English lan- | Captain Lawlin. I believe that this town was | number of canoes came off to our vessel as we | of one or two English settlements, it exports a guage. The greater part of them are familiar founded by Krako himself, only a few years since. sailed, and brough ducks, fowls, corn, etc. to sell, larger amount of gold and ivory than any other with the historical parts of the bible, and to some | He was driven from Rockboka, or some where | and were very earnest that we should anchor and | point along the whole coast. It is stated by an extent, with its doctrines; they have some know- thereabouts, by the brutal avarice of his own peo- trade with them. This was considered unsafe, English trader, who had an opportunity to acquire ledge of geography, particularly with the geogra- ple, and he founded this town with the hope of for they had only a short time before attempted to information on the subject, that more than twenty

preter, and it is hoped that religious truth present. | bedstead and a comfortable mattrass. Wooden and noble river of the same name, through which the petty chiefs in the vicinity of Cape Palmas, ed thus directly to their minds, will awaken more | chests of various sizes were placed around the | the people have much intercouse with the interior | or upon any part of the coast which I have visited. have a decided conviction that it will be advan- very similar. Their language is closely allied to large one, but I can form no satisfactory conjectifity-five years of age, rather above the common manifest no desire to remove them. They have foreigners, the Bereby country.* It is situated ashore and spent some time among the people, but dignified and affable. He is at the head of affairs, means of writing, and they have taken, in one the number of inhabitants exceeds three hundred. aboard of our vessel were civil, and for natives of one string of coral beads, four ounces of gold, or two cases, a great deal of pains to satisfy their | The country does not extend more than ten or | the coast of Africa, they may be regarded as in- | equal to sixty-four dollars. minds of the possibility of it. They have some | fifteen miles along the sea-coast. Its trade con- | telligent men. In their appearance generally, | Their canoes when in motion are always acsists in palm oil, camwood, and ivory. We left though they exhibit obvious traits of savages; companied by singing, and some of their airs are they are still a manly and interesting set of men. really lively and pleasing. I have always been Two of the most prominent personages who figure | disappointed in the Kroomen in this particular. on board of vessels, are King Kwih (it would | Their cance songs possess neither harmony nor usually be spelled Guee) and Prince George. life, and I never felt any interest in hearing them The former is said to own a large number of sing. One of the most melancholy features about slaves, and is, perhaps, the most influential man | the character of this people is that they are great in the community. His personal appearance, topers. No people on the coast have greater however, is any thing but imposing. He wore a lacilities than they to procure rum, and they are pair of trowsers and white shirt, both of which excessively fond of it. They affirm that the river were so soiled and ragged that he would have Lahou, the De Costa, which enters the sea at passed almost any where out of Africa for the Grand Bassam, and the Asinee river have all a veriest beggar in the world. King Kwih and common origin. But their knowledge of the Captain Lawlin had been friends of long standing; geography of their country is very imperfect, and and King Kwih did not hesitate to confer a royal | their statements must be received with caution. hug on his friend on the occasion of their meet- | They have always been opposed to the establishing. For the good fortune of Captain Lawlin, ment of trading factories in their town, preferring however, he embraced him around his waist. to keep the trade in their own hands. Their ob-I would add, that the same royal favour was con- lishment of a school or a missionary station. They ferred on me, when introduced as Captain Law- own a great many slaves, and this is the only class lin's friend. Prince George stands next to King of persons who cultivate the soil. I think both

there is really reason to fear that their motion has almost perpendicular from the water, to two hun- Kwih in point of wealth and influence. He is a lish, and stands at the head of the factors or trading men. The interest, however, which I would otherwise have felt in this man, was materially

> The people of Drewin and St. Andrews several there was an English factory here, which has now

Degraded and depraved, however, as the people

confidence. They are a spirited and enterprizing What is called the Drewin country extends | set of men, and they only need a little guidance

Cape Lahou-Relations to Interior Tribes.

Mr. Wilson next gives a brief account of an ried into effect by the crew of the Emperor, by which the life of the officers and of Mr. and Mrs. vidential interposition the plot was detected, and

The vessel next anchored off Lahou. Cape Lahou is situated about ninety miles east of St. Andrews, and nearly two hundred distant years ago its annual exports in these two articles made considerable progress in arithmetic, and more personal security than he could at his native About four o'clock in the afternoon we anchor- exceeded one hundred thousand dollars. And as they can write intelligibly both in English and town. He is already not only the most important ed in St. Andrews' bay, and were in a very few the people have of late years engaged pretty exman in his own town, but of all the surrounding minutes surrounded with forty or fifty large ca- tensively also in the palm oil trade, it is likely The morals of our children are generally good, country; and he is in some respects one of the noes. The people of St. Andrews are regarded that the entire amount of their annual exports, municated through the medium of their own lan- trusting him with goods to the amount of one the vessel to prevent others from clambering up a grove, rather a forest of cocoa-nut trees, and guage much more readily than when derived from | thousand dollars. He lives in better style than | by the sides of the ship. The Kroomen and sai- appears to the naked eye from the anchoring books in the English, notwithstanding they have | the generality of his townsmen. We visited him, | lors are instructed not to use any needless severity | ground to extend three or four miles along the and found him very hospitable. His dwelling is in forcing down from the sides of the vessel those | beach, though there is a small portion of the inconstructed in native style, but on a larger scale | who are all the while trying to get up. They | termediate ground which is not occupied by

about sixty feet long, and twenty or thirty wide. | the end of a rope, with as much severity as they | Notwithstanding their scanty apparel, a stran-It is partitioned off into three apartments, of equal | chose; and if this failed, they might use the broad | ger is struck at once by their civilized and intellisize. The first, through which we passed, is used side of the cutlass. Sometimes the natives would gent countenances. They are manly and indeas a store-room; and was supplied with a pun- get considerable way up the rigging, and when pendent in their general demeanor, but are great cheon of rum, a case of muskets, a few teeth of the contest grew too hot for them, they plunged thieves and beggars notwithstanding. It is no ivory, etc. The next apartment is an open hall, head foremost into the sea. This kind of em- detraction, in their estimation, either to steal or with no furniture except a swinging hammock. ployment, I observed, gave peculiar satisfaction to beg when an opportunity offers; and if a man is The next is occupied as a sleeping-room, and we | the Kroomen. They have a grudge of long stand- | taken in the act of stealing, it is no more than were forthwith introduced into it. In one corner | ing against the Drewin and St. Andrew's natives, | what occurs every day, and he is only acting out of this stood a plain pine cupboard, which was and they never fail to use their authority on such the principles which have been instilled into him

farms. They will be resumed, however, as soon | hand-organ; so that we were entertained with | hand, endured it quietly, from the consciousness | the head of the settlement on the western side of the river, and appears to possess much more ining to dispense with the assistance of an inter- In the third corner stood a substantial but coarse | St. Andrews is situated at the mouth of a large | fluence and authority over his people than any of interest in the hearers and be more permanently room, covered with cotton cloth, for seats. The tribes. It is distant one hundred miles from Cape The government too, seems better organized, and beneficial to them. It is difficult for us to say general style of building here is very similar to Palmas, and is decidedly the most important set- partakes more largely of the character of a mohow much impression has been made upon the that in the vicinity of Cape Palmas; and the last-mentioned place and narchy, than any of the petty governments on the mass of the people by missionary labour. They habits and character of the people too are also Cape Lahou. The native settlement is a very Grain and Ivory coasts. Peter is about fifty or tageous to their children to be educated, and those that of the Grebo. Krako's town is one of the number of houses, or the amount stature, and is rather corpulent. He speaks good of them who have their children in our schools, four settlements which are collectively called by of inhabitants. It was my intention to have gone | English, (that is, for a native African,) and is been a good deal surprised to find that their own about seventy miles due east of Cape Palmas. circumstances which will be detailed hereafter, both in a commercial and civil point of view. He people can communicate with each other by There are about seventy houses in the town, and prevented me. Those of the natives who came is said to be very rich. I have seen him pay for

And, if I may not incur the charge of egotism, jections would not extend, however, to the estab-