

they have been a check to the advancement of the colony in one respect,
(in its agricultural interests) its general appearance has improved. It will be
seen the general appearance of the town has been improved.

I found a large amount of goods in the ground, notwithstanding the in-
crease in number of Colonists. I think a large quantity of lands under cul-
tivation than when I left the colony. But on the other hand I found
them better clad & better able to procure goods from the natives in fact more
wealthy. The ~~time~~ ~~of the~~ ~~year~~ for the last year I should judge had
principally been engaged in labouring for the Agency & the missionary establishments.
Little labour was had upon the public farms, the produce of
the farms upon the various products of the climate which I directed to
be made monthly, & for which purpose more than any other the farms
now established, were entirely neglected.

But the farms now I
am glad to say presents a most gratifying appearance. The plough has
been used over it, & its beautifully undulating surface clothed with dark wea-
ving grass is a new source of pleasure to the colonists, & reminds of Cape Palmas.

I doubt not but in another year the whole ^{portion} section, bordering on the marshy
wells team with the native African cotton. This state was last year neglected for
want of seeds, at present no such obstacle exists. I was enabled through the
kindness of James Shively Esq of Cape Coast to supply Mr Ruffin with
a quantity of Ashantee, Gambia & Senegal cotton seeds of African growth.

Mr Swansby has for some years appointed upon the estate & the result has
been the establishment of a large plantation about four miles from Cape
Coast Castle. This I did not visit, but examined a few acres directly on the
sea beach which had been planted four years & which he informed me pro-
duce about two hundred pounds to the acre annually.

Mr Swansby has a letter from one of the principal Manchester manufacturers, (to whom he
had sent samples of all his weaving both girseid & hand picked); which gave
the preference to the Ashantee hand picked over any cotton in market save
the American Sea Island.

The experiments of Mr Swansby answer
all questions as to the practicability of raising cotton to a profit on the
Coast of Africa.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

IV. Miscellaneous Letters and Minutes

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