

well be disheartened. The Board of Managers cannot doubt of success however; and in exercising the high and responsible duties devolving upon them, it is with the firm belief that the time is not very remote, when, with the full and free consent of those interested in this species of property, the state of Maryland will be added to the list of the non-slaveholding states of the Union.

On the 28th of November, 1833, the brig *Ann*, Captain Langdon, sailed from Baltimore with a full cargo of goods and provisions, and eighteen emigrants, for Cape Palmas. The expedition was under the charge of Dr. James Hall, a gentleman whose experience in Africa admirably qualified him for his situation. The Reverend John Hersey accompanied him as his assistant, and the Reverend Messrs. Wilson and Wynkoop, agents of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, took passage in the *Ann*, with a view of ascertaining the fitness of Cape Palmas as a place for missionary labors. On the 25th of January, the *Ann* reached Monrovia, and remained there ten days, taking on board thirty old settlers, nineteen of whom were adult males, well acclimated. On the fifth of February, the brig reached Bassa, and, receiving five more recruits, sailed on the sixth for the point of her ultimate destination. Dr. Hall had sent word to the kings of the vicinity of the purpose that brought him to Africa, and when he reached the Cape, which he did on the eleventh of February, he found them prepared to treat with him. On the thirteenth a grand palaver or council was held, at which the only difficulty that presented itself grew out of Dr. Hall's refusal to make rum a part of the consideration of the proposed purchase. "His master," so he told the natives, "did not send him there to give rum for their land. Rum made the black man a fool, and then the white man cheated him. He came as a friend to do them good—not as an enemy to hurt them." Arguments like these, which he took care to have well explained by the head men of the towns who had been previously made to understand them, joined to the great desire of the natives that the Americans should be as one people with them, overcame the difficulties which at first threatened to break up the palaver, and the land was sold by the kings to the State Society, for a quantity of trade goods fully satis-

factory to them, though perhaps small when the ultimate and probable importance of the settlement was considered. The kings reserved to their people the use of their villages and fields, and stipulated, that within a year a free public school should be established in each of the principal towns. The deed of cession is dated on the 13th February, 1834, and is signed by Parmah, king of Cape Palmas—Weah Boleo, king of Grahway—and Baphro, king of Grand Cavally.

As soon as the purchase was completed, Dr. Hall, admonished of the necessity of speedy operations, by the approach of the rainy season, commenced discharging the brig, clearing the land on the Cape where he proposed to lay out his town, and erecting shelters for his people. As soon as practicable, the vessel was sent back to Monrovia and Bassa, for the families of the recruits from those places, and by the time she returned,—so actively had the work been pursued,—a shelter was provided for all the settlers. The discharge of the brig was completed, and on the 19th March she sailed on her return. The Board had sent out the frame and materials of an agency house, which was now erected, and in less than a month after the first landing, the settlement began to wear the appearance of a compact and comfortable village. Messrs. Wilson and Wynkoop, after remaining at the Cape long enough to become acquainted, and highly pleased, with its situation and its fitness for missionary labors, then returned to Monrovia, and from thence to this country. Mr. Hersey, after aiding Dr. Hall in the arduous duties of the first landing, and attending to the erection of the agency house also left the Cape and came to the United States. Before his departure, he erected a meeting house of the Methodist denomination, the first temple to the Almighty that rose upon the territory of the society.

Dr. Hall now found himself with about eighty persons of all ages—a mere handful of men among the thousands around him—and set himself to work to get them established on their own lots and fortifications erected for their defence. At the date of the last advices, August 17th, 1834, he had built a fort, which fully commanded the native town of Cape Palmas, and two small towns on the beach—as well as the landing place;—and thirty-seven lots were occupied. The gardens

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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