more remote, but I think it advisable to lay out the first township bordering on the beach, and thence extend to the interior, as I consider it of great importance to have the whole settlement connected, that we may have good roads from one end to the other. With very little trouble and expense we can have the best roads, surpassed by none in America; a thing very uncommon in African settlements.

The present productions of our territory are cassada, rice, yams, janias, plantain, banana, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, egg plant, behia, some excellent varieties of the pea; Guinea and Malagetta pepper; many varieties of the prune and fig. These are all produced and cultivated by the natives in great abundance; and to them may be added all the garden and field vegetables, as beans, peas, turnips, Indian corn, squashes, beets, carrots, parsnips, cabbages, onions, melons, lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes. These are all now growing in almost every garden on the Cape, and more luxuriantly than I ever witnessed in any part of the world. I have long since, (two weeks at least) had my table supplied with summer squashes, beans, cucumbers and melons, from our own gardens, and but three months have expired since we first broke ground.

As it regards animal food we are equally well supplied. There is no part of the coast which furnishes such beef, and I never before saw so fine in any tropical country, nor any more fat, even in the Boston market. All British merchantmen, ships of war, and Spanish and French slavers, have, time out of mind, been in the habit of calling here for beef and kroomen. I should judge that there might be one thousand bullocks (for they call all neat cattle, *bullocks*, a cow is a woman bullock) belonging to this town. Sheep and goats are equally abundant, as also the muscovy duck and fowls. They have wild game, such as wild bush hogs, and some variety of the deer, which are all so plentiful as to be well worth the while of spending a morning occasionally in the bush. I never tasted better venison, but the pork is very tough, although much esteemed by those who are accustomed to it, even more so than the domesticated pig. The natives make no use of any animal except for eating. They milk neither goats nor cows; no care is taken of them at all. How they would answer our purpose for yoking, hauling timber, or other materials, or for milking, I am unable to say, but doubtless they would be equally useful with the cattle in the United States, or on the Spanish Main, where they work them excessively hard. We need horses and asses here very much; no doubt but they would thrive extremely well; (my own jack having gained much since leaving Messurado,) and we should be enabled to transport all timber and merchandise with the same ease and celerity as in the United States. The want of good roads, and animals of draught and burden has been a great hinderance to the growth and prosperity of the colony at Cape Messurado, and could not be obviated there, the face of the country not admitting of good roads, without great expense. Nothing is so prejudicial to agriculture as the water communication, or rather the want of other communication than native canoes. The banks of most of our rivers and creeks, in Africa, are covered with mangroves, and cannot be cultivated to the water's edge; and in most places the elevated land cannot be approached from the water, consequently

the farms are cut off from any feasible communication with the market of the town, and in fact often from their neighbors, as there are innumerable small creeks or gutters running into the main river, and in the rains all the ravines bordering on the river are filled with water.

In this, our purchase, we have every natural advantage possible to favor the promotion of agriculture, and we only require industry, and with that industry, proper direction and guidance, to render this a wealthy and flourishing colony. The labor of one man, in good health, six months in the year will produce vegetables for six adults, and in greater abundance and variety than the average of wealthy farmers in New England enjoy. This I state as a fact deduced from my own observation of the rapid growth of certain vegetables on this soil, and from my knowledge of the amount of such vegetables required for the support of a given number of laborers in the West Indies. This one point then being gained, the next consideration is clothing. To afford this generally by *daily* labor, at hire, is entirely out of the question, and were it practicable, not to be desired, as the number of laborers would greatly increase the demand, and thereby reduce the wages, without at all cheapening the commodity required as remuneration. Thus the trafficker would have great advantage of the laborers. Opulence would be the result on one hand, and want and beggary on the other; the latter when experienced would in time stimulate the ignorant and depressed laborer to acts of injustice and violence. The usual resource to procure clothing among the middling and lower classes here, as well as in America, is trade with the natives for their produce, hoping thereby to make some little profit, which will enable them to clothe their family; but in this they are almost uniformly disappointed. The exorbitant price demanded by the commission merchant forces the purchaser into the country, where he can sell to advantage, and here he contracts the vices and habits of the natives, and is most generally robbed of the profit at least, and perhaps the whole, and returns to his family a verrier beggar than when he left it; disheartened and depressed, he blames only the natives and commission merchant. He reasons with some degree of justness, thus,—'that he had a house and lot, and plenty to eat, and an abundance to dispose of, but there were no purchasers, (his neighbors being in like condition,) and there was no *clothing*. To work by the day or month, at the rate of ten or twelve dollars a month, would absolutely amount to nothing, when paid in unbleached cotton, at thirty-three and a third cents per yard, and all other clothing in proportion; therefore the only alternative was to traffic.' Again he takes the same course, hoping to retrieve his former losses, not having courage to witness the degradation of his family, or, which is the most common case, he becomes estranged from home, and enamored of the charms of savage life, as indolence, drunkenness, and licentiousness. The wife at home bereft of protection and support for herself and family, and knowing but too well the habits of the absent husband, is forced to the like conduct to gain a subsistence, and degradation and ruin is the result to the whole household. That this will be the case with our colony I trust not, but that it has been the case elsewhere I do know. Some course must then be adopted

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47