to prevent the like with us, and to this end it is absolutely necessary that some article of export should be raised by the colonists, and they should be stimulated to this by other measures than barely recommending it to their notice, and urging them on. For the natives have the same capacity to produce any article; can afford it at one quarter the price which would induce a colonist to undertake it, and the merchants, ever ready to take advantage in such cases, would of course purchase of the natives, and this would bring the colonist at once to the destructive course of traffic. I would advise that the agent here be authorised to purchase all articles of export produced by the manual labor of the colonists, at its current value at wholesale in this town or harbor, and pay therefor in goods, adding a small per centage, barely sufficient to pay the expenses and labor. I can see no objection to this plan; it would in no way interfere with the merchant's trade, either with the natives or colonists, for other articles; it is perfectly feasible, would be accompanied with no risk, and I view it as the only means to ensure reward and full remuneration to the enterprising and industrious. I would not propose such a measure as permanent, but I think for a few years, something of the sort is absolutely necessary.

Of the articles which our climate will enable us to raise for exportation, the most prominent are palm oil, sugar, molasses, coffee, cotton and tobacco. Now the question is, which ought to be encouraged and recommended to the colonists for cultivation. Doubtless the sugar cane is best adapted to our soil, and would yield the greatest profit, but its cultivation I consider at present by the emigrants entirely out of the question. You are aware that to effect any thing with this, it requires skill and experience and a capital which few or no colonists have; and any attempt to push a thing of this kind, when we are not fully prepared, will not only fail, but deter others from engaging in it when the proper time shall have arrived. The coffee tree does not grow spontaneously here as at Bassa and Cape Messurado, but would do well were it introduced. Yet I do not think that exactly the thing we want at present; it requires five years to mature it, and our colonists coming here poor and destitute, require some immediate support. Taking all circumstances into consideration, I consider cotton and tobacco as decidedly the best articles for new emigrants to commence with. The others can be introduced after they are cleverly under way; in six months after the time of planting they could reap the avails of a crop, and would thereby be placed in comfortable circumstances. I doubt not but that palm oil will, in a short time, command the labor and attention of the colonists, as well as natives, and that this place will be one of the great marts for that article. The palm tree grows spontaneously in all the varieties of soil in our territory, and apparently with equal luxuriance on the sandy beach, or in the fattest vallies. In fact the whole face of the country is covered with them, and it only requires a ready market, like the Bonny, to induce the natives to manufacture it in immense quantities for exportation. I have been at some pains to ascertain the habits of this tree, and the practicability of cultivating it to advantage. It will produce the nut from which the oil is extracted in three years from the time of planting, and after it is once fairly out of the ground, nothing can interfere with its

growth; consequently it needs no culture or attention. I have calculated that four hundred and thirty-five trees will flourish on an acre of ground, allowing each tree one hundred square feet; the third year they will bear, although not plentifully; the fourth and after, past the days of man, they will produce nuts, affording upon an average one gallon of oil to the tree, and this sells in America and Europe at seven or eight cents per pound, say fifty cents per gallon, giving the husbandman the sum of two hundred and eighteen dollars annually, requiring at his hands barely grubbing the soil at first, and perhaps two weeks pruning afterwards, yearly; and the manufacture of the oil from the nut, which is a very simple and easy process. The pulp, after a few minutes' boiling, becomes soft and is easily detached from the stone, by bruising in a large wooden mortar; it is then rubbed in a vessel with water, and the oil, rising to the top, is easily poured off. Independent of the oil, the tree produces an excellent wine, and the palm cabbage much esteemed by all acquainted with its use. The natives here make what they term palm butter from the nut. It is not much like our good New England butter, but more like gravy from meat, though far surpassing that or common melted butter, as sauce for rice or vegetables. I would advise that the newly arrived farming colonist should first supply himself with vegetables for his family's subsistence, as cassada, or the plaintain. This, together with his sickness, and building a dwelling, will take at least one year. I would then have him put in all the cotton and tobacco that he could well manage, at the same time to save all the palms that should be on his lot, and sow a nursery of them if he had time. As I mentioned before, I consider sugar as entirely out of the question with the colonists at present, but if the board of managers wish it, I will make a beginning, at the public expense, on the farm; but it must be remembered that this labor cannot be performed by those condemned to labor for the public, as the cane requires much care at one season, and little or none at another, and when to be planted, cut, or manufactured, it must be done at once. It will require considerable machinery and good buildings, and I doubt not but the board will see fit to let it rest a while; but cotton I am anxious to get under way, and therefore wish a good quantity and variety of the seed sent out; also some work or works upon the subject of growing tobacco and sugar cane.

I have been thus particular in stating my views upon this subject, that the Board of Managers may understand why I have not commenced the culture of the cane and coffee, and also, that the man of color, when told that they both grow spontaneously in our territory, shall not expect to find plantations of them ready at hand. The mischief done by misrepresentation, or by wrong inferences deduced from dubious and ambiguous statements, is incalculable. It is enough that the Colonist sacrifices his home for the hope of liberty, peace and plenty, and that hope should not ultimately be extinguished by the chilling blast of disappointment.

I judge a few remarks upon the health of this place, will not be considered premature. Upon this subject I have been tremblingly anxious and watchful, as I am satisfied that it will ultimately determine the destiny of the Colony. The natural advantages, in every other respect, are equal to

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47