those of any other part of the globe, and I think that we may indulge a well-grounded hope, that Providence has been no less propitious with regard to the salubrity of our location. I speak with caution, being fully sensible that years must elapse, ere we can form a decided opinion upon this very important subject. I can only speak of it comparatively, and so can safely say that this is a far more healthy place than Cape Messurado. I am warranted in saying this, from the circumstance that quite a number of our Colonists were extremely weak and sickly when they embarked from that place and every one will bear testimony, (personal,) that their health was quite restored. As to myself, I have not enjoyed so good health, for the space of one week, during four years, as for the last two months. I have been able to labor daily, to eat heartily, and to sleep at night. I have long since disposed of my crutch, and am likely, in time, to become a real biped; but I do not think it fair, to attribute my own and the Colonists' amendment entirely to the climate. Change of circumstances may account for it in part. Our emigrants from Baltimore have suffered from the fever nearly in the same degree, as I have formerly observed those newly arrived at Caldwell and Monrovia; although but one death has occurred, and that a child of Mr. Stewart's, one year old. It died of dysentery this morning, more than four months from its arrival on the coast.

It ought to be taken into consideration that the circumstances of our emigrants have not been such as we could wish. Their houses were, for a long time, very leaky; they were huddled, bag and baggage, into a small compass, and suffered many privations unavoidable in the commencement of any settlement; but of this matter of health and disease, I shall speak more particularly when I can do so from experience, and not till then.

One thing, I think, demands present consideration from the Board, and that is the establishment of a coin for the Colony. You may, perhaps, think this ill-timed and premature, but for myself I can see no objection to it even now, and the main reason for having it at all, operates as strongly now as it ever will. We thought of preventing indiscriminate traffic; some trade every Colonist must have with the natives and with his fellows; it is the necessary result of the mutual connection and dependence between man and man; and this must be effected through the medium of articles of merchandise or coin. If the latter is used, it is done at once; if the former, it is almost impossible simply to make a purchase of any article of provision. Suppose a native brings a fowl, duck, or any article of food, from a great distance, and is instructed to get powder or any particular article of trade for the same: now only one colonist may have the article desired, and he not wish the article offered, the native, after traversing the town, returns home disgusted with the colony. Every colonist in order to purchase provisions, or pay a native for work, timber, or the like, is necessitated to have on hand a full assortment of merchandise; being thus equipped, and seeing the immense profit he makes on some small articles, he is at once seized with the trade mania, which, admitting of no cure, calls loudly for a timely preventative. The want of an established circulating medium, also gives the trader a great advantage over the laborer and mechanic, they being necessitated to take the amount of their wages from the store, he makes

what profit he chooses, and in most cases, pays what articles admit of greatest per cent., and of course, which are least desired by the laborer.

I am certain, that unless we have a regular colonial coin, indiscriminate trade cannot be prosecuted. Although I know little of the philosophy of financial transactions, yet I would not hesitate to say, that the distribution of a few thousand dollars, paid out by the agency, would be a very profitable operation, and attended by no risk whatever. The coin should be of silver, something like the Haytien, so much below the standard of the Spanish dollar, that it should not be exported, the object being to keep a coin here for internal convenience. There should also be a copper coin bearing the same proportion to the silver, as does our American.

I have executed an ordinance attested by two colonists, appointing the colonial secretary, Mr. Thompson, and James Benson acting agents, with equal powers. Benson, you know; he is a man of integrity and of *African* experience, and Mr. Thompson is fully capable of transacting any business which the station would impose on him. Of this gentleman I ought to speak more particularly, as he will ever be a prominent individual in this colony. He is an English Creole, a native of Demerara. He went to England quite young, and received an English education, and also acquired a considerable knowledge of the Latin classics. He afterwards spent some years in New York, and emigrated to Liberia in the ship Jupiter, July, 1832. He was there offered a situation in the counting house of Waring & Taylor, but not liking the manner of trade in Monrovia, he accepted the appointment of colonial book keeper with half the salary offered by Waring & Taylor. He also officiated as our lay reader for the few episcopalians in Monrovia. He is a man of as much intelligence as any one Liberia, very modest and unassuming, and certainly possesses more purity of heart than any world worn man I ever encountered. I have been thus particular in speaking of Mr. Thompson, as I consider it of the first importance that you should know what materials you have here, in case of the decease of your future agents, and also that you may know in whose statements you may place reliance, when schism and internal commotion embroil this little community.

I send you an attempt at a map or draft of this section of the coast, which may assist you in forming a better one, at least it has the merit of showing what towns are nearest to us, and what the direction is by compass. It will correct one egregious blunder common to all geopraphical descriptions and charts, viz: that Cape Palmas is the southernmost point of the coast of Guinea. Even supposing that the variation is 18°, Grahway point bears, E. half south from my dwelling, and I am but a few yards north of the point of the Cape. Grahway point bears E. 25° S. from the Cape by compass although from the island off the Cape, it would probably bear about E. S. E. The variation being 18°, would bring it E. 4½° S. by true course. From Grahway point the course is about the same, not varying more than 5° to Tabou point. This last is doubtless the southernmost point of Guinea. I have placed Rock town, on my map, about one inch or three miles too far from our Cape, but I have no time to correct that error or to improve the appearance of the whole, as an opportunity unexpectedly offers

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47