will be able to assist us in enlightening the dark minds of their countrymen. You would be not a little surprised, I am sure, at their improvement, although I devote but a small part of the day to them. My health is sufficiently established to remain in the school room more than three or four hours each day. I wish you could hear the boys singing a simple hymn I have taught them, commencing, 'Jesus who lives above the sky,' to the tune of 'Castle-street.' I have been partial to this tune, having heard the little Indians under the care of Mr. Case sing it. And you would like to see them too, as they frequently seat themselves on the ground in their own peculiar way, and listen to what I have to tell them of the truths of the Bible.

'Mr. W. has gained great ascendancy over the minds of these people. They call him the 'true man,' meaning he never changes his word. Poor creatures, they have so often been cheated by the captains who trade on this coast, it is not surprising they suspect all white men. Many of them manifested much concern during Mr. W.'s illness. One man in particular attracted my attention, and called forth my sincere gratitude. One morning we heard much drumming and noise in the town near us; a native entered unceremoniously into our room and asked 'you sabby dat?' We told him no. He then said he could not bear to see Mr. W. so long ill. They were sure the devil was in the house, and they had been up all the night before, begging his majesty to retire from his present dwelling. *Now* they were rejoicing, as they believed (as Mr. W. was better) he had gone. Will not the recital of such facts call forth prayer, sincere prayer? I have taken a native girl about four years of age; the first girl that has been offered without hope of compensation. She is the niece of the king; her native name is 'Ysero.'

'Our breakfast consists of a plate of rice and some cold bread. With these I eat molasses. Mr. W. has learned to eat palm oil, the only butter in Africa. After this meal I am escorted by a number of my scholars, who esteem it a great honour to carry the chair on which I am to sit, or a book, or a card. I am now where I have wished to be; and I think I never was so happy as I have been for the last three months.'

Extract from a Letter of Mr. Wilson, dated at Cape Palmas, Aug. 4th, 1835.

After suffering from sickness for a number of months, the health of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson has been restored to such a degree as to enable them to commence their appropriate work, with fair prospects of being able to labour successfully in the mission.

Schools—Opening for Additional Missionaries.

'The date of my last was the 7th ult. Since then to the present time our little family have enjoyed uninterrupted health, and our prospects of living and being useful in this country are far more encouraging than they were a few months ago. Our health is so good at present, that we have felt it our duty to commence our missionary labours, but we shall not lose sight of the importance of preserving our health above all other considerations. My wife and her coloured assistant have commenced a small day school, composed partly of natives, and partly of the children of colonists,—twelve or fifteen in all. We could increase the number of native children to almost any extent, but we thought it best to make a small beginning, and increase as circumstances would seem to warrant. The native scholars are those who have nearly attained to manhood, and most of them can speak intelligible English. The school has been in operation two weeks; and so far, the progress of the native scholars is quite satisfactory. At present they manifest much more eagerness and equally as much capacity for learning, as the American children. How long this eagerness will continue is yet to be proved. Besides her day school, my wife will for the time to come, if her health continues, superintend two Sabbath schools—one for the American children in the forenoon, and one in the afternoon for those of the natives who understand the English language sufficiently to be benefitted by her instructions.

I feel now more than ever the desirableness of exploring the coast to the leeward of this. I find that traders from all parts of the world attach much more importance to this part of the coast in point of commerce than to the windward. At Lahore, at Cape Coast, Widah, Calabar, Fernando Po, Gaboun, and several other points along this coast, there are European settlements, and there ought to be at each one of them a missionary. I do not see why christian missionaries may not live at these places, when European merchants and officers, and at some of them entire regiments of white men, venture their lives. There is a consideration which I would have sink deep in the hearts of candidates for the ministry, while they are delaying and hesitating about coming, the country is distressed and distracted by the slave trade. Slavers hover along this coast like so many birds of prey, and seize their victims under the eyes of Americans, but nobody is found for their relief. The inculcation of religion among these people will rear bulwarks against this traffic far more formidable than all the force that civilized nations can employ; and until this is done, there is very little hope of its termination. But I must stop this subject. My heart sickens when I look upon the wide desolation around me, and remember the apathy of my dear brethren at home. To call and appeal is only to mingle my voice with the many that are constantly falling upon their and your ears from all parts of the pagan world. There is work here for twenty men instead of one.

This colony, I think, is decidedly prosperous, and the disuse of rum will relieve it from many embarrassments. The fears I once entertained

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47