The extent of territory recently acquired is about five hundred square miles. In the Bulyemah country, a part of the new cession is the oracle of the region of country for six hundred miles up and down the coast. Dr. Hall visited the spot, and found it to be a large rock, from which, by means of a rude ventriloquism, possessed by the attendant priest, a sound was made to appear to proceed, which the priest interpreted *ad libitum*. To the ignorant natives, the rock, situated in a wild country, seems invested with intelligence, and hence its sanctity. Delphos lives again in Bulyemah.

The influence of the reputation of the colony and its able governor was strongly proved on the visit up the Cavally. The brother of the king of Haidee died on the night of Dr. Hall's arrival in the chief town of the territory, and one of the natives was the next day sentenced to undergo the trial by poison, on suspicion of being the cause of his death. Through the exertions of Dr. Hall, however, he was saved from the trial, and this, notwithstanding the high rank of the supposed victim, the power of the king, and the passions and prejudices of the people.

Extract of a letter from Wm. Floyd Burt, supercargo of the brig Eliza, of New York, to a friend in that city.

HARPER, Cape Palmas, Aug. 26, 1835.

DEAR ——, When you became aware of my intention to visit the western coast of Africa, you partly wrung from me a promise that in case my other engagements would permit, I would note particularly the state of the American colonies established there, as you would put confidence in my remarks concerning them. I then informed you, that being neither abolitionist or colonizationist, I, of course, should be an impartial observer; but as my object in visiting the coast would be strictly commercial, I should probably have little leisure to attend to other business than my own. I will, however, make a few observations merely to convince you that I have not been unmindful of your request; and at the same time confess that I feel an interest in the affair, which a half dozen colonization meetings could never have awakened.

I arrived at Monrovia on the 16th of July, and left it on the 5th inst. during which interval I was deeply engaged in business; but this led me to see that the times were bad, very bad. The principal men were gone to war* with the Bassas, and they appeared to be surrounded by war on all sides, which entirely cut off the trade from the interior; and the complaints from one and all, were loud and frequent. Further than this, I know very little of the actual situation of that colony. Had they, like the colony established here by the State of Maryland, looked to the soil

*That war, invited perhaps by an erroneous application of *peace* principles, is since happily over.

for their support instead of traffic with a fickle and barbarous people, they would not now be affected by these barbarous wars. This, many many of them seriously think about doing: they hope to bring about the cultivation of cotton, to make it an article of export. Accident brought me to this place, or rather it is owing to an accident that I have been detained here for the last fifteen days, and to this accident you are indebted for this sheet on the subject matter desired.

A few miles to the windward of this we lost an anchor, and completely ruined our windlass, and put into this place to repair it. To those acquainted with the coast trade, it will be useless to note the importance of having good ground tackling; no voyage can safely be prosecuted without such. The importance of these colonies, in a commercial point of view only, as exemplified in the present case, has fully committed me as a colonizationist. Had there been no colony here, we should have had to retrace our course to Cape Mesurado, if none there, to Sierra Leone, and so on, which might have entirely ruined our voyage. Had government done her part like the benevolent societies, and stationed a few vessels of war on this coast,* say two between Sierra Leone and Fernando Po, our vessels would feel at home here, and our commerce would rapidly increase.

Now that the world has seen that vessels can be navigated without *rum*, one great obstacle to the more frequent visits of national and all other vessels to this coast has been removed. It is well known to you that but few years have elapsed since it was considered certain death for at least one-half the crews of all African merchant ships; and the cause, I do sincerely believe, was the use of rum. Now, crews for this trade are almost uniformly shipped with the prohibition of rum; and I know of many vessels returning to New York without the loss of a man, and in fact, no record on the log, of sickness on board the whole voyage. Temperance in eating and drinking, avoiding exposure to the sun and violent exercise, and making it a general rule not to be ashore after night fall, and I believe one may prosecute a voyage on the coast of Africa with as much safety as in any part of the world. It is to the English that we are indebted for the security of our trade and protection from piratical aggression; their language is used for trade along the whole coast. The French, Spanish, Dutch, and Portuguese have to barter in Africa-English. It is really astonishing that our government should permit settlements of her own citizens to remain unprotected on this coast, when they might be protected and fostered at so little expense; and next to slavery, I consider it the greatest stigma on our national character.

But to return to the colony. But eighteen months have elapsed since

*Orders, before this letter was received, had, at the instance of the managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, been issued by the secretary of the navy, to one of the U. S. sloops of war to cruise in those seas; and it is understood to be the intention of government to make that a regular cruising ground.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47