tried in this manner, and in fact all cases where there could be the least evidence adduced of guilt; nor have I ever in any one instance found the constables or justices remiss in doing their duty, or the offender supported by any in resisting the execution of judgment. The instances of theft had also become comparatively quite rare, and in fact no considerable one occurred until I was absent on a visit to Cape Mesurado, and then, ere I left, speedy redress was faithfully promised. I would not wish to be understood as expressing a belief that this business is or will soon be entirely done away with, for 'tis not to be expected; but the above facts are adverted to in order to prove from experience (the best school in these matters) the hope of effecting a material change in the character of these people is not futile or chimerical.

As I stated above, the process of improvement among them would be hardly perceptible to one unacquainted with them individually or as a people: so it would be equally difficult for me to explain to you the actual improvement which I can perceive is constantly taking place. Sufficient time has not elapsed since the commencement of the experiment to render many changes, far advanced, tangible or demonstrable, and it would be extremely difficult for me to interest you with the detail of innumerable minor events, which, taken together, produce in me a decided conviction, that all which the colonizationist or missionary hope to effect with reference to this people is possible, and requires only a potent, firm and resolute perseverance in the course already commenced.

YELLOW WILL.

It would hardly be just for me to close this brief statement, respecting the relation these people bear to the colony, without mentioning the instance of superior energy and sagacity in a native named Yellow Will. I found him an ordinary head-man or boy, such as usually go up and down the coast, in vessels. He had formerly been a head-workman, among the natives employed by the English at Fernandi Po. From the time of my first arrival at Cape Palmas, he has ever been at my service in any undertaking whatever. At times when it was expected that hostilities would commence with his tribe, he still continued his services unless forbidden by the king. But in the time of the greatest excitement, I never was able in any manner whatever to shake his fidelity to his people, nor would he ever give the most distant hint of their dispositions or designs. His answer to all interrogatories in this respect, was, 'I am this countryman, not an American. I work for you to get money, not to betray my own people; when I join the Americans I shall leave my own people, I can't have a heart for both sides.' This man became more and more attached to us, until finally he concluded to leave his tribe and move to our town, where he now resides, and is regarded by both natives and colonists, as a man of enterprise and sagacity, and the most sterling integrity. I have never seen a man whose natural powers

of mind I should judge transcended his; and few uneducated men in civilized life, who could reason more correctly on subjects of moment. It has been mainly through his influence and counsel that the recent purchases of territory from the inhabitants have been so successfully effected; and I doubt not but he will ever prove an able, efficient, and patriotic counsellor to the authorities of the colony.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

In speaking of the present state of the colonists, and of their future prospects, it will be unnecessary for me to touch upon the natural advantages of the country, as soil, climate, and their natural productions; of these I have most fully treated in former communications, and experience has only served to confirm me in the very favourable opinions heretofore expressed. The public improvements in the colony at this time are as follows, viz.: A commodious Agency House and outbuildings. The upper story of the house being occupied by the Agent, and the lower one as a public court room. A two-story stone warehouse, 26 by 40 feet, a substantial, well finished, handsome, commodious building, used by the Agency as a provision and variety store. A wharf immediately in front of the store, running 70 feet into Hoffman river. A public farm, of which about 10 acres are cleared, enclosed, and partly cultivated. A farm house for the superintendent, 24 by 16 feet, two stories high, the upper part being destined for the use of looms and the like apparatus. A jail, built of the hardest teak timber, hewed six inches thick, and laid up solid of this material. A house on the public farm for the accommodation of emigrants, 120 feet by 18, weather boarded and thatched. Two of a similar construction in the village about 70 feet long each. There has been about four miles of roads opened, and it is now in good condition, and passable for horses and cattle. A commodious meeting house has also been erected for the use of the Methodist Episcopal church. To these might properly be added the buildings belonging to the A. B. C. F. M. all erected and occupied by their Agent, the Rev. Mr. Wilson, consisting of a large dwelling house, out buildings, a large school house, and dormitory for his scholars. In the village there are now belonging to private individuals, twenty-five framed dwelling houses, and eight of the same material on the farm lots, besides twelve of inferior construction. The colony now contains over two hundred and twenty inhabitants; among whom about sixty may be reckoned as adult males, capable of performing the quantum of labour usually allotted to men, and of bearing arms. Of the number of those which arrived in the last expedition, I shall not have occasion further to speak, as they cannot at this time be considered as settlers. I shall endeavour to convey to you a correct idea of the present situation of those who have been a sufficient time in the colony to enable them to provide for themselves. It will be recollected that but two years have

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
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