

reported to the society at Washington. Extracts from this report will be found in the appendix.

In the last annual report the Board indicated the subject of education in Africa, as one which they were very desirous should be taken up by the female friends of colonization. The Board are happy to announce the formation since then of a society in Baltimore, called 'The Ladies' Society for the promotion of education in Africa,' through whose agency sufficient funds have been raised to employ a teacher, and his wife. Mr. Alleyne, the teacher, and his wife, who are in many respects most admirably adapted to their situation, sailed in the fall expedition, with an excellent outfit, also furnished by the Ladies' Society. The judicious instructions that have been given to them, if carried into effect, as it is expected that they will be, must make them most valuable acquisitions to the colony. The Board trust that the society which has thus been formed, will not be suffered to languish for want of that share of the public patronage that it richly deserves.

In the last report, the Board announced that they had appointed a citizen of Maryland in Liberia, J. B. Russwurm, Esq. Governor of the colony, and they gave at length the reasons that influenced them in so doing. They are happy to be able to state, that the experience of the year has corroborated their policy in this respect, and that the inconveniences which were anticipated have not yet been felt. Mr. Russwurm promises to make for himself a high reputation, and the Board have every reason to be satisfied with their selection. In the appendix will be found the report of Dr. Hall, who visited the colony some time after Mr. Russwurm had taken possession of his office.

The relations of the colonists with the natives, have been in the main friendly, the occasional difficulties that occurred being but of short duration. New purchases of territory have been made, and that of Rocktown, the next town to windward, and a very considerable rice market, is deemed most important. The advantages of settlements of civilized men to the natives, and the establishment of schools, in addition to the trifling dash or present, which is given when the treaty is made, are the only considerations for these cessions.

Among the inconveniences experienced in the conduct of affairs in the Colony, one of the most troublesome has arisen from the want of a suitable circulating medium. The system of barter, which was necessarily resorted to, threatened to defeat the wishes of the Board in regard to native trade, by forcing each colonist to keep on hand an assortment of goods to exchange for the articles wanted from the natives for the use of his family. It was at first proposed, to send small silver coin to the Colony, but the information acquired by the committee having the subject in charge, satisfied the Board, that if silver was sent, the first trader that stopped to trade at the Cape, would bring it all off, and that it would be at present, impossible to keep a sufficient

quantity there, to answer any useful purpose. There were objections to issuing a base metal which seemed to have considerable weight; and at last, as the subject pressed, the Board determined to send certificates for five, ten, twenty-five, fifty, and one hundred cents, receivable in payment for goods at the public store. To make these intelligible to the natives, there were represented on them, objects to which the natives attached the values represented by the certificates—as for instance, on the five cent certificate, there was a head of tobacco—on the ten cent, a chicken—on the twenty-five cent, a duck—on the fifty cent, two ducks, and on the dollar certificate, a goat. The success of this experiment is not yet known, although it is expected to answer at all events, among the colonists. It will be at once seen, that no view towards profit has influenced the Board in adopting the paper currency here described; for the certificates will be returned to the store as fast as issued, and can only answer the purpose of facilitating exchanges, and breaking up the present system of barter.

In their present report, the Board cannot refrain from expressing the satisfaction which they feel at the success, which during the past year has attended colonization in other quarters. The settlements of the American Colonization Society, seem to have recovered from the depression occasioned by the native wars around them, which in forcing them to direct their attention to agriculture, by cutting them off from native trade, opened to them, even through present distress, prospects of permanent prosperity. It is gratifying also to the Board to know that the American Colonization Society's settlement is under the actual government of a coloured agent, Mr. Williams, whose success in the management of affairs still further corroborates the Board in the choice of Mr. Russwurm as their agent at Cape Palmas. The settlement of the New York and Pennsylvania societies is evidently in a flourishing condition, and the Board are gratified to see, that recently, on the addition of Edina to their jurisdiction, the people of the last named place were only admitted as citizens of Bassa Cove, on taking an oath of allegiance recognizing the temperance pledge.

The settlement of Greenville, belonging to the Louisiana and Mississippi societies at Sinou river, has been made, and may be considered now in prosperous operation. The country is described as admirably adapted to the purposes of a settlement, and the agents who have the control of operations in Africa, appear to be sensible and experienced men.

With a view to competent medical skill in the Colony, the Board have now under their charge, the son of the assistant agent, S F. McGill, who is studying the profession of medicine in Vermont. He is an intelligent and persevering young man, and the Board believe, that when he leaves this country on his return to Africa, he will not

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers  
1835-47