

tions to this effect, have been so fully verified by every individual visiting the western coast of Africa, who has made the subject a matter of thought and consideration. On this point, I am sensible you require no further confirmation. A comparative view of the colony at this time (June 1st,) and the time of my leaving, fifteen months since, would result in a conviction of general improvement. Some circumstances have arisen between the officers in charge and the colonists, of an unpleasant nature; but in the main of little consequence, and productive of no permanent injury. Some measures have been pursued counter to what I strongly advised in surrendering my trust, and to what I now think good policy, but, although they have been a check to the advancement of the colony, in one respect, (in its agricultural interests,) the general appearance of the town has been improved. I found a less amount of food on the ground, and notwithstanding the increased number of the colonists I think a less quantity of land under cultivation, than when I left the colony. But on the other hand, I found them better clad and better able to procure food from the natives, and in fact, much more healthy. The colonists for the last year, I should judge, had principally been engaged in labouring for the agency and missionary establishments. Little I believe was effected on the public farm. The proper experiments, upon the various products of the climate, which I directed to be made monthly, and for which purpose more than any other, the farm was established, were entirely neglected. But the farm, now I am glad to say, presents a most gratifying appearance. The plough has passed over it, and its beautifully undulating surface clothed with dark waving corn, is a source of wonder to the astonished natives of Cape Palmas. I doubt not but in another year, the whole northern section, bordering on the marsh, will teem with African cotton. This article was, last year neglected for want of seed; at present no such obstacle exists. I was enabled, through the kindness of James Swansey, Esq. of Cape Coast, to supply Mr. Russwurm with a quantity of Ashantee, Fantee and Sea Island cotton seed of African growth. Mr. Swansey has for some years experimented upon the article, and the result has been the establishment of a large plantation, about four miles from Cape Coast. This I did not visit, but examined a few acres directly on the sea beach, which had been planted four years, and which he informed me produced about two hundred pounds to the acre, annually. Mr. S. showed me a letter from one of the principal Manchester manufactories, (to which he had sent samples of all his varieties, both ginned and hand-picked,) which gave the preference to the Fantee hand-picked, over any cotton in market, save the American Sea Island. The experiments of Mr. Swansey removed all doubt as to practicability of raising cotton to a profit on the coast of Africa.

Missionaries.—The policy of the Boards of Managers here.

The missionary operations in the colony and its vicinity, you are aware are becoming more and more extended. The American board and the missionary societies of the Methodist and Protestant Episcopal churches have all able and efficient men in the field, and the great outlay which they are making, will almost insure a permanency to the colony—Cape Palmas is more emphatically the *Serampore* of West Africa. But it is to be regretted that the principles of these societies force their agents to act, so exclusive, as the rejecting of children of colonists from their schools, or rather of so arranging their course of instruction that it amounts to exclusion. The result is, the natives consider the preference shown them as a consequence of their superior merit, and

while receiving instruction from well educated white missionaries, are apt to imbibe feelings of contempt for the less favoured children of colonists, who are generally instructed by those not so well qualified. It is not only *seemingly* giving the native children a great advantage over them, but really so; and will have in the end, an injurious effect. The advantages for moral, religious, and political improvement, should, as far as circumstances will admit be equally held out to colonists and natives. All measures should be taken to bring them on a level. Special favour should be shown only to special merit.

Relations between colonists and natives.

The relation at present existing, between natives and colonists is quite amicable, although some occurrences transpired last fall, (of which you have probably been informed) which portended trouble. There is much diversity of opinion among those most interested, and whom circumstances enable best to judge, whether or not hostile measures will be resorted to, on either side, and as to the extent to which the colonists or the Governor of the colony is bound to forbear and suffer grievances rather than have recourse to this resort. I am clearly of the opinion, that with proper management, all that the colonists will ever be forced to suffer from petty trespass and aggressions, fraud and theft, will fall infinitely short of the evils attendant on a protracted African war, or war in the least shape you can put it, and with the most favourable results which can be hoped from the circumstances of the parties. With even the present rate of increase of the colony, the time is not far distant, when such will be its numerical force, that a thought of war will never be entertained. The kings now in our territory, are so numerous, and their interests so diversified and conflicting, many of them having been at war with each other, that with good management on the part of the agent, it will be utterly impossible for any number, even two or three kings to league together in measures offensive to the colony. Of this, Gov. Russwurm is well convinced, and is now prosecuting measures that will, I think, without doubt insure peace to the colony. He has continued to cultivate the good feelings which Ney, king of Denah, possessed towards the colony, and has by the purchase of Rock-town, and securing the special good will of its active head-men, created a counter-balance of power, which will ever, while it is sustained, keep the Cape Palmas natives in check.

Results of Mr. Russwurm's appointment.

There is one point on which the gentlemen of the Board have felt much anxiety, which I doubt not ere this, has abated, I mean the appointment of a coloured agent, in addition to the satisfaction of having my own prediction fulfilled in the so far able administration of Mr. Russwurm, I have been gratified to find the measure approved of, by the leading men in every settlement which I have visited on the coast, and by all masters of vessels with whom I have had any intercourse; but more particularly by the merchants at Cape Coast, to whom Mr. R. had been known as a man of business, and a gentleman. To sum the whole matter up, I think, that the colony was never in a more prosperous condition than at present, and I expect, and confidently believe, that ere the period of its existence (three years) shall be doubled, all the exciting anxiety to hear from it, will be swallowed up in confidence, and its success established.

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47