these native towns did not meet the wants of the Colonists. Governor Russwurm frequently tried to induce them to sell their towns and move back upon their farm lands, but it was not until after his death (during the term of Governor McGill in 1852) that they showed any disposition to do so, they then voluntarily made application for aid and protection in the establishment of a town on the west side of Cavalla River, above Dinah; but for some reason gave up the plan, though encouraged to prosecute it by promises of the desired aid from government.

Since then they have shown no desire to remove, have been more inclined to complain of the government, and less willing to punish people of their towns when guilty of petty thefts from the Colonists. When we last visited the place, in 1855, Governor Prout was very anxious to lay out a road from a certain locality to the river, but could not do so, because it would interfere with two antiquated bamboo huts belonging to the king, which his majesty would not sell, nor permit the governor to remove. And he was even threatened that war would result if he persisted in moving them; such annoyances, however slight, occurring from day to day, were well calculated to create a determination to remove the natives at all hazards, and it would not surprise us, if Governor Drayton has failed to exercise the same forbearance as his predecessors. It was time for them to remove or adopt civilized habits.

We are indebted to Rev. Mr. Dennison, Secretary of the P. E. Mission Board, for the following extracts of letters received by him from Bishop Payne, Rev. Mr. Hoffman, and Rev. Mr. Rambo, which confirm accounts of the war received from other sources.

Extract from Bishop Payne's Letter.—"The past week has been the most eventful in the history of the Colony at Cape Palmas—perhaps the most eventful in the history of the Mission. The colonists, moved by various provocations, have burned up all the Cape Palmas and Grahway towns, eight in number, and driven their inhabitants—not far below *six thousand*—into the forest or such interior villages as would afford them shelter; and the natives, on their part, have burned several unprotected houses in the colony, and amongst them *our first station and our first African home—Mt. Vaughan.*

"Prudence seemed to require, that the families residing there—Mr. Gibson's and Mrs. Thomson's—should leave on the breaking out of hostilities; and the place was left unguarded and unprotected, except by guns at two stations on either side. On the evening of Christmas day it was set on fire, and the two Mission-buildings and office reduced to ashes.

"Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Thomson will probably find accommodations in the Asylum and in Harper (on the Cape;) and perhaps sufficient house-room may be there obtained to carry on the High School, when peace is restored, as there is a prospect of our having it within a short time.

"But Mt. Vaughan is the most suitable place in the Colony for our High School, and I am therefore anxious to have a suitable building erected for this purpose in the shortest possible time."

"Extracts from Mr. Hoffman's Letter.—I write in the midst of the realities of war. On the 13th of December, there was a report that a conspiracy had been formed by the natives to cut off the colonists. An investigation took place the following week, which was not satisfactory to the Government, and on Monday, the 22d, the head men were called, and propositions made for their immediate removal, and the purchase of their towns. These not being listened to, war was declared, and the cannon opened fire on the dwellings of the natives; they made some resistance, but soon the town was in flames, and they fled with precipitation. Only one of the Americans (colonists) was killed, and one wounded. The natives, during that night and the two following, avenged themselves for the loss of their towns, by burning the houses of the colonists, and on Christmas evening, (our twentieth anniversary) they burned Mt. Vaughan.

"On that day a party of colonists, with their allies, the Rocktown natives, in conjunction with the Cavalla people, on the other side, went to Grahway, and after a pretty warm contest, succeeded in burning the four Grahway towns, and proceeded down the beach with the Cavalla natives to Cavalla where they spent the night. Not a man of the colonists was lost, though the natives suffered and fought bravely. They returned on the 27th, and the natives fled before them. Most of them have gone three days' journey into the interior, and to-day have sent to make overtures for peace.

"The Cape is now entirely clear, and will be kept so, and there will be much more security than when two thousand natives divided the settlement.

"Through the whole of this we have endeavored to maintain our neutrality, and I had a number of families and children at the Asylum, who came for security; besides having our native teacher (Mr. Harris) and family and his fourteen scholars. Some nights we have had sixty or seventy people beneath our roof.

"Now things are becoming more quiet, and the people are returning to their homes, when not too far from the military posts.

"In the loss of Mt. Vaughan, Mrs. Thomson has lost everything except her clothes—her furniture, bedding, books, linen and house-hold articles, which for twenty years have been gradually accumulating. I hope kind friends in America will remember her. She was one of the first teachers in the Mission, commencing her labors in March, 1836, and has been connected with the Mission ever since.

"The Rev. Mr. Gibson, who also lived at the Mount, lost most of his things—his library among others. Cannot an effort be made to get him a library? He is a studious and excellent young man, and makes good use of good books.

"The excitement of war has interrupted a very interesting state of things in the Church. I had nearly forty candidates for confirmation, and our Convocation was to have been held the week of the war. The Bishop could not, of course, come up, and all was excitement and confusion.

"In the burning of the native town, St. Mark's Church took fire; and had it not been for the efforts of Mr. Davies, it could not have been saved; the injury done, however, was slight. Our examinations also were interrupted, except those at Cavalla, from whence I returned only thirty-six hours before the war."

Extract from Mr. Rambo's Letter.—"This war, it seems, grew in part out of the war last year between the Cape and Rocktown natives. That affair was nominally, not really, settled last April by an American man-of-war. Since then the two hostile parties have not fought, neither have they exchanged visits.

"Gov. Drayton, of the State of Maryland in Liberia, early last month, (Dec.) went up and made the Rocktown people a visit. They, perhaps, stated their grievances. He, it seems, promised his help and influence to recover certain captives, if I am rightly informed. The Rocktown people, at any rate, formed a mutual alliance with the Government. Soon after this the Cavalla natives (where Bishop Payne lives) did the same. The Cape natives and their colleagues, the Grahway people, felt chagrined at this."

Maryland Historical Society

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