which he pledged the co-operation of his people. It is said, by those who have visited it, to be a healthy, fertile, well watered and timbered country, furnishing an abundance of rice at all seasons, and, with contiguous sections, abounding in many valuable commodities.

I visited Grand Cape Mount early in May, for the purpose of regulating matters at Robertsport, as well as to bring about a cessation of hostilities among the seaboard tribes of that county. I am happy to inform you that I succeeded in making peace between the two principal belligerents, George Cane and Far Forney; and the long obstructed intercourse between them was reopened and has not been obstructed since. Both chiefs have since died.

Though it is possible we may find it necessary, at some future day, to chastise some of the more interior tribes of that section of country for persisting in the prosecution of their predatory wars, on which they have so long depended for livelihood, yet for the present it is a very highly gratifying fact, that peace so generally prevails within our borders, and that the aborigines are manifestly increasing in their respect for and loyalty to this Government, and are encouragingly progressing in those principles of civilization that are destined to elevate them to social and religious blessings, as well as to national greatness.

During the month of March I sent up a surveyor to lay out the city of Robertsport, who returned in the month of May, with a certificate from the General Superintendent, stating that four hundred and sixteen lots had been laid off. I am happy to say that about one hundred of the immigrants by Elvira Owen were landed there early in September, under the supervision of the Rev. John Seys, Special Agent of the American Colonization Society; and one of the fine, commodious receptacles brought out by the same vessel has been erected at that place for the accommodation of successive companies of immigrants. The volunteers and immigrants have drawn their town lots, and are praiseworthily converting that wilderness into civilized habitations. I know of no seaboard settlement in Liberia possessing more and greater advantages.

The Rev. John Seys, well known as a devoted Christian missionary for a long time in Liberia, arrived in the ship Elvira Owen, in the month of August, as Special Agent of the American Colonization Society; and among other important duties, he is charged with the mission, by permission of this Government, of making explorations interiorily, for the purpose of selecting a suitable locality for the formation of an interior settlement, with a view of testing the comparative healthiness of our seaboard and interior in the acclimation of immigrants.

I have also to recommend the passage of a law defining citizenship of this Republic; that is, as to what shall constitute one a citizen of this Republic; as well as making provisions for carrying the same into effect. The passage of such a law should not be delayed longer, if we would obviate serious difficulties, not only among ourselves, but with foreign powers: a warning against which we have had this year, in the attempt of the notorious A. T. Woods.

The increase of cases of larceny within the Republic the last two years manifestly proves, that the statutory provisions made for its punishment, approved January 9th, 1854, are not sufficiently stringent. The bare restitution of fourfold, if detected, will likely always prove a temptation to the committal of such acts, by the dishonest acute speculator. If the thief can satisfy himself that the chances of his escape are good for five out of six, he will be encouraged to prosecute the business for a livelihood. It is highly important, gentlemen, that the law at once be made more effective, so as to timely check this growing evil.

I have to request your authorization of the appointment of one or more discreet persons in each county, whose duty it shall be to hear and determine such native complaints and misunderstandings as are usually referred to the Chief Executive; and that you define the duties and jurisdiction of these officers, as well as the compensation of such of them as may not be the regularly appointed General Superintendents of Counties. And as the aborigines living adjacent to our settlements perform no public duty, nor contribute otherwise directly to the support of the government; and as they claim and receive the protection of this Government, which, on an average, spends thousands of dollars annually, settling their misunderstandings one with another, and in affording them protection, I therefore recommend that a reasonable tax be imposed on them, to assist in defraying these expenses; and that you define and authorize the organization of s system that will promptly and effectually secure the desired object.

It affords me great pleasure to communicate to you that nothing has occurred during the year to interrupt the tranquility of our foreign relations; and so far as I am cognizant, the most friendly feelings subsist between this Government and all nations.

In the month of June Dr. J. Z. Forney Esq., arrived in this city, bearing a commission of United States Commercial Agent for Monrovia and parts adjacent; and was received by this Government in the month of July.

I have the pleasure of informing you that ratifications of the Hanseatic treaty were exchanged in London by G. Ralston, Esq., on behalf of this Government, on the 13th of May.

In the month of April last, the Hon. J. J. Roberts, intending to make a visit to Europe, was commissioned Charge des Affairs of this Government, accredited near the Court of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of France; and having been duly recognized by that magnanimous nation, was enabled, through his efficient ministry, to make such representations of the character, object, and claims of this infant Republic as could not fail to make a true and favorable impression.

His Majesty, true to that magnanimity and benevolence that have hitherto characterized his reign, entertained up to the date of the last advices from our Minister his wonted feelings of friendship towards this infant Republic, and evinced a disposition to contribute to its welfare.

Through the kindness of Mr. Woermann, of Hamburg, the thousand uniforms presented by the French Government have been shipped for this city, and are daily expected.

I am happy to inform you that on the arrival of the Elvira Owen, I received, through the agency of the American Colonization Society a valuable library, with surgical instruments and human skeleton, (constituting nine cases,) which were bequeathed to this Republic by the late lamented Dr. Kittredge, of Portsmouth, N. H., who, I learn, has been Liberia's unswerving friend for many years. This bequest is valued at five thousand dollars, and, I am sure, will ever be greatfully remembered and duly appreciated by this Government.

I also received early in the year, from Liberia's unrivalled and well known benefactor, Benjamin Coates, Esq., a large and beautiful lithographic picture of the Senate of the United States in 1850, which he kindly presents to the Honorable the Senate of this Republic.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to state further, that through the instrumentality of the Rev. A. Crummell, who communicated with friends in the United States on that subject, an amount has been generously contributed for the erection of a library building in this city; and he is fully authorized by the donors to commence the same so soon as procurement of a lot for hat purpose can be made of Government.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)--May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

1857