longer, and are confined to January and February." A strong Harmattan blows steady night and day, overpowering the sea breeze entirely, and for days together, only stronger in the morning—and they seldom occur in February, generally about Christmas. On page 95, he says "Mr. Buchanan was Governor of the Liberian Commonwealth from 1835 to 1841." We think he was first, for a short period, Agent of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, and Governor of Bassa, afterwards of the entire *Colony*, not *Commonwealth* of Liberia, till his death in 1841. In speaking of the war at Cape Palmas, on page 118, he says that twenty-six of the Liberians were drowned by the splitting of a canoe, except this not a Liberian was killed in the war, nor is there uncontradicted testimony that a native was killed; also, that many trees were cut down in time of the war, lest the natives might conceal themselves among them and fire upon the colonists—"The possibility that they might be killed by *such marksmen;*" implying, too decidedly, timidity and cowardice on part of the colonists. We grant the whole matter of the Cape Palmas war was discreditable enough to the Liberians; but even a clergyman should give the Devil his due. There were but twenty-three drowned in the canoe; two or three colonists were shot, while seeking food in a cassada field, by natives concealed behind trees, possibly the very trees which Mr. C. said had been cut down. We wish we could think with Mr. C. that no natives were killed; but, from all we could learn at the time, from "testimony uncontradicted," several were killed at the first fire upon the town, and it is very remarkable, almost miraculous, that hundreds were not, the distance of the town from the guns being not over two hundred yards, the houses packed closely, without avenues or streets, and filled with people and several well shotted guns played upon it till all was consumed. We fear the fire was more fatal than the natives care to acknowledge—as they invariably conceal and carry off their dead, killed in battle. A discrepancy occurs in noting the time of the settlement of Bassa; on page 95, "Bassa County was first settled in 1832 by one hundred persons from Monrovia." On page 106, "this place (Edina) was first settled in 1833 by thirty-two men who came from Monrovia." The territory on the north side of the St. John's was purchased by Gov. Mechlin in Jan., 1832; we landed the goods for the purchase in the Margaret Mercer, in March, 1832, with old Bob Gray, and the settlement, we believe, was commenced during the rainy season of that year by Wm. L. Weaver, and called "Edina."

But the most material error in Mr. Cowan's book is in regard to the distance from Monrovia to Careysburg, material, because it conflicts so directly with Mr. Seys' estimate, and is a point on which Mr. C. seems disposed to make a *point*, as he more than once adverts to the subject. Mr. Seys, who founded the settlement, makes the distance, if we mistake not, from Careysburg to Monrovia, a fraction over fifty miles. Mr. Cowan makes it about twenty-five. Probably it may be between the two, but we propose not to argue or decide the point, only to show that Mr. Cowan is in error from his own book. On page 59 he says, "Careysburg is about twenty-five miles from Monrovia. The present way to go there

from Monrovia, is by the Stockton Creek to the St. Paul's River, thence up the River five miles to White Plains on the south bank of the River, thence by land, twelve or fifteen miles, in a north-east direction to Careysburg." This is the route which Mr. Seys makes fifty miles. The most apparent error in Mr. C's estimate of distance above, he corrects himself. He says, "five miles from the Stockton to White Plains, by the St. Paul's;" then, on page 55, "Caldwell was originally laid out six miles on the St. Paul's;" then, on page 85, "Louisiana lies on the south bank of the St. Paul's, above Caldwell;" then, on page 86, "White Plains lies above Louisiana, on the same side of the River, and opposite Millsburg." Therefore, Louisiana must be nothing, and one mile less than nothing, as Caldwell extends six miles on the River, and Louisiana lies between *it* and White Plains. Again, on page 67, Mr. C. makes "Millsburg twenty miles from the sea by the St. Paul's;" then, on page 44, "four and a half miles from the sea, on the St. Paul's to the Stockton Creek," leaving fifteen and a half miles from the junction of the Stockton and the St. Paul's to Millsburg, which latter place he states, on pages 86 and 88, is opposite White Plains; this, added to the eight miles from the St. Paul's by the Stockton to Monrovia, as on page 44, makes White Plains twenty-three and a half miles from Monrovia—just ten and a half miles farther than he estimates it on page 59. As to the discrepancy between the estimate of Mr. Cowan and Mr. Seys, of the distance from White Plains to Careysburg, we shall not attempt its adjustment; it is but reasonable to suppose, however, all other matters being equal between the two gentlemen, that Mr. S. is more nearly correct, as he is an old African traveller, had many years since visited the Queah Country, in which Careysburg is located, founded that settlement, passed to and fro several times, and took great pains to form a correct estimate of its distance; whereas, Mr. C. never set foot on the route to Careysburg from the landing at White Plains. We have been thus particular in noticing this matter, in justice to Mr. Seys, who performed a most arduous, important and responsible duty for the Society in founding the settlement of Careysburg.

These slight errors are pretty much all we discover in a careful perusal of Mr. Cowan's book. It will be seen that most of them are trivial and incidental, and when the reader peruses the mass of facts embodied in the book, he will agree with us that they are but confirmatory exceptions to a general rule, and that rule the authenticity and correctness of the work. We notice them from another cause not before stated, viz: to prove to Mr. C. that our review of his work is as candid and impartial as is his notice of Liberia and her people. Another point may be here adverted to, personal to Mr. Cowan, and of importance at this time, and that is, he is a Southerner, born in the South, lives at the South, and all his sympathies are with the South, not the Southern fire eating press, but the better class of Southern people, or we may more properly say with those of his native and his adopted States, Virginia and Kentucky—therefore should his testimony in regard to the Humanity of the colored man, and his ability to sustain himself have due weight.

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)

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