John H. M. Harris is a supercargo, in the employ of an American House.

Mrs. Nancy Harris is a poor widow, whose husband died while on a visit to this country last year. Her health is very feeble, and having no relatives in Liberia, she came over to live or die at her father's, (a free colored man,) in North Carolina.

The last named, Margaret Mitchell, was liberated several years since by Mr. ———, of Savannah, that she might accompany her husband to Liberia. They went together, and Mitchell located at Sinou, built a comfortable frame house and obtained a deed for the usual allotment of land. After a time, a desire to procure the liberation of his children induced him to work his passage to New York in a Merchant's vessel. Arriving there, he succeeded, by the aid of kind friends, in raising and getting promises for a considerable amount, we think over $2000. When we last saw him, he expressed a hope of soon taking his children to Africa with him, but shortly after, meeting a young woman in Boston, who was reported to possess from $2000 to $3000, old as he was his virtue forsook him, and he married her. Since then he has done nothing for his former wife, while she, being over sixty years old and burdened with his debts, wrote her former master, begging to be taken back on any terms. His reply was, that she could only be a slave in Georgia, but, as he kindly offered to pay her expenses back, she returned. The gentleman's Agent here stepped forward to pay her passage and take charge of her; but the desire to return to Georgia had evaporated, and some newly made colored friends paid her passage. Her former master, who had been written to, declined taking any further action in the matter. His answer was worthy of him, being simply that he had no other desire than to consult her comfort. We do not yet know if she intends going North in search of her runaway husband.

It should be remarked here, that the funds subscribed for the purchase of Mitchell's children have been secured, and will be used for that purpose.

LETTER FROM AFRICA TO THE REV. J. W. CULLUM.

ROBERTSPORT, LIBERIA, *August 6th*, 1858.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—I am happy to avail myself of the privilege of writing you a hasty epistle by the Stevens, trusting on the receipt of which yourself and family may be in good health.

It was no little source of gratification and pleasure to see my mother and brother, in God's providence and mercy, safely return to their homes, in improved health. Their return in the Stevens was anxiously expected and anticipated by us. They speak of yourself and family with affectionate remembrance and regard.

There is nothing going on, at this time, particularly interesting or important, of which to write you; I shall, however, gladly notice anything that has occurred lately of any consequence, that will be of interest to you.

You have, no doubt, heard of the "Liberia College Injunction Case," and the disposition made of it. The college building, you are aware, was the munificent donation of certain individuals in the United States, and was originally intended to have been put at Clay Ashland, but on account of the extreme unhealthfulness of the site proposed, resulting from its being surrounded by a lagoon, the President and Trustees of Liberia College declined putting it there, and selected, it was thought, a healthier and more suitable location at Monrovia, after having made fruitless attempts to secure a better place elsewhere. At Monrovia the building was commenced, the corner stone laid, and every preparation made for its speedy erection and completion before the expected rainy season set in. When the corner stone was being laid, eloquent and instructive speeches were made by several of our most respectable and influential citizens, and the exercises on the occasion were conducted with the greatest regularity and precision. It seems that the Legislature at one of its late sessions passed a law fixing its location at Clay Ashland, and granted for the use of the College one hundred acres of land. Various opinions were entertained as to the real meaning and intention of the law. The people of Clay Ashland had a writ of injunction served to stop further proceedings—an action brought against the President and Trustees of Liberia College, and the building stopped. The case was carried to court, and after various pleadings on both sides, the matter was submitted to the court for its decision, which was, in part, that the President and Trustees of Liberia College desist from locating the same. The College now remains as it is, until the next meeting of the Legislature, at which time, no doubt, the matter will be settled. I will send you a copy of the proceedings, if one can be procured, which will supersede the necessity of my entering into a fuller and more detailed account of them.

It is well known that our coast has been, and is still being, no doubt, infested by foreign vessels for the purpose of prosecuting the "French Emigration System;" the object of which is to procure native emigrants for some of the French colonies. A vessel of this nature was here, a few miles above us, not long since, procuring emigrants, by paying a certain amount for each one, and succeeded in getting nearly her complement.—The question may be asked:—"Why is this allowed?" It is allowed on certain conditions. When the emigrant goes voluntarily and of his own consent, without force or persuasion being used, or clandestine means resorted to, it is allowable: under different circumstances, it is not. There was on board this vessel a government officer, but of the nature of his office I am almost ignorant. In the absence of the captain, officer and several of the crew, who were all on shore, the emigrants revolted, having had cause for so doing, and massacred all the remaining crew, except a doctor in the employ of the vessel, and one sailor, who jumped from the rigging into the sea and made his escape to the shore, not without first receiving a slug from a musket by some one of the emigrants. They became sole masters of the vessel, and after having sailed about for a few days, an English mail steamer came in, and took her, emigrants and all, to Monrovia, where they made their escape. Salvage was claimed by the Englishman, and awarded: in the meanwhile a French man-of-war came and took her off. Since then I have not ascertained the disposition made of her. It would afford me gratification to give you a more comprehensive account of this matter, but for want of time I am denied that pleasure.

A few days ago, I saw an extract from one of the Southern papers, giving an account of two dissatisfied emigrants from Liberia. They represent the country and people in a bad light, and say that seven-eighths of the people in Liberia would willingly and gladly return to the United States, had they the means, and serve the hardest taskmasters of the

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)

1858