probability, the colonists formed themselves into a military company one hundred strong; but their equipment was bad, and their discipline worse; and, worst of all, the native village stood between the towns of the colonists, and contained five hundred warriors, thirsting for blood, and armed to the teeth with knives, spears and muskets.

"In the course of December, 1856, Governor Drayton received information that the natives were secretly preparing for a descent on the colonists, and that the time was set, and assistance called in. He promptly called on the prince, Yellow Will, and held a *palaver* with him and his head men, in which the governor was given to understand that such an attack had been in contemplation, but was now abandoned. In the early part of January, 1857, the governor thought it advisable to call another *palaver*, but Yellow Will refused to attend, after three invitations followed by threats. The colonists received this as evidence of his unfriendly intentions, and a sufficient cause for war. They arranged a plan of attack, and, ere the natives were aware, were upon them with fire and sword. Torches were thrown among the thickly clustered huts, which being composed of bamboo and palm-leaf thatch, burnt like dry stubble. The warriors fled without their arms, and were received by volleys of musketry from men in ambush. The women and children were suffered to escape unmolested, but it is said that several children and old persons perished in the flames.

"Not satisfied with routing the natives and destroying their village, the colonists, flushed with victory, proceeded, after resting a few days, to carry the war into Africa, by attacking the natives at Half Grehwey, a village at which they had encamped, some six miles from Harper. The former took their two field-pieces, and divided into companies—one of twenty-five men in a large canoe, taking one of the guns, while the other, of seventy men, dragged their gun and proceeded along the beach of the lagoon. Before arriving at the expected scene of action, they were surprised and surrounded by an ambushed party of several hundred natives. The men from the boat had, I suppose from the effect, fixed their gun athwart ships, and, forgetting to allow for the recoil, fired it off in that situation. The narrow boat capsized, of course, and those who were not drowned were shot in the water by the natives.

"The party on shore was in great disorder, and remembering the adage that

"He who fights and runs away,
May live to fight another day."

took to their heels, leaving the field-piece to the enemy, and went into town at the rate of a great many miles per hour! Here they remained in a state of defence, until the arrival of further aid. Commodore Crabbe received a request, by a runner, who came up in a canoe, while at Monrovia, to send a vessel for the protection of the American Missionaries at Cape Palmas. On arriving at Porto Praya, he dispatched the U. S. sloop St. Louis to their assistance. The arrival of the St. Louis, together with other forces, so awed the natives, that they sent in to sue for peace. A palaver was held, conducted by Commander Livingston and Ex-President Roberts on the part of the colonists, and by Prince Yellow Will and his chiefs on the part of the natives. A treaty was concluded, which, like most treaties in such cases made and provided, required the natives to submit quietly to their chastisement, pledge themselves to preserve peace for the future, and to pay several hundred measures of rice in a given time, to compensate for a mission church, and other American premises, which they destroyed by fire in their flight. So closed a fair specimen of the colonial wars on the West Coast."

Now this is all fine writing enough and quite dramatic—but utterly unworthy of the subject and of the author—being in the main a caricature, and in the detail, mostly untrue; a perfect travesty of history. The settlement of Maryland in Liberia was founded on strictly temperance principles, each emigrant signing the constitution, forbidding the use or traffic in any kind of intoxicating drinks! And a temperance colony it remained for near twenty years, no spirituous liquors of any kind admitted, except what were smuggled in by the natives. A peaceful colony, too, it remained for near a quarter of a century, without open hostilities with the natives, or any declaration of war. At length, Governor Drayton, stimulated by a foolish vanity to distinguish himself, or too fearful and apprehensive of an attack of the natives, in an evil hour, formed a league with other tribes, attacked and burned the native towns, and drove the people to the bush, but "several children and old persons did" *not* "perish in the flames," nor did "the fugitives suffer from volleys from men in ambush." *The natives declare that not one of their people was killed in the town;* and it was well known, that the captain of the guard stationed to enfilade their course of flight, refused to fire on the retreating natives, and this, to his everlasting honor—Joshua Stewart. The aid which relieved the settlement, came in shape of Liberian soldiers from Messurado, carried down in the Colonization Ship M. C. Stevens, and not in men-of-war of any nation, although two did arrive soon after. The last paragraph in the above extract is also a libel upon Liberia. This Cape Palmas war, we regret to say, was an unnecessary and an unjust one, and in our opinion, Governor Drayton is highly censurable for having opened it, in deed and in manner. In this respect, it was *unlike* every other war between the colonists and natives. It was the only one in which the Liberians have ever suffered defeat, or even check, therefore *unlike* every other Liberian war. Why, then, should Mr. Thomas so libel and defame these people, and call this "A fair specimen of colonial wars?"

NO MORE MANUMISSION.

By the time this reaches our subscribers, the act below will be in operation. Of the ten or fifteen thousand slaveholders in Maryland, we do not believe there are one thousand, if one hundred, that approve of its passage. What sane man demands to have his liberty curtailed? Could the abolitionist have devised a measure more injurious to the interests of the State, or more humiliating to the slaveholder. He cannot dispose of his own—he is not to be trusted, but subject, like his negroes, to special legislation.

THE ANTI-SLAVE MANUMISSION ACT.

A bill entitled an Act to amend the 65th article of the Code of Public General Laws, by repealing the 42d, 43d, 44th, 45th, and 46th sections of said article, and by adding thereto certain new sections prohibiting manumission of negro slaves, and authorizing free negroes to renounce their freedom and become slaves.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* that the 42d, 43d, 44th, 45th and 46th sections of the 65th article of the code of public general laws which authorize and regulate the manumission of

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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