of submitting to the laws of the colony, and their willingness to make further grants of land, to any extent desired, whenever the terms of the present negotiation shall have been fulfilled. The spot selected for a settlement is said to be healthy, and the soil capable of producing almost every thing of value that grows within the tropics.

It is the intention of the colonial agent to examine, in conformity with the instructions of the board, the country above the falls, on the St. Paul's river, which, from the best accounts, is more salubrious, and at least of equal fertility with any other in the vicinity of the colony. The managers propose, with the least possible delay, to found and multiply settlements on the high lands of the interior.

The health of the colony has never been better or more general than during the last year. The skilful and unremitted efforts of the colonial physicians have been remarkably successful, and greatly diminished the danger to which newly arrived emigrants are exposed; and there are the best grounds for hope, that more experience, the clearing of the lands, and the early removal of such emigrants to stations at some distance from the coast, will still further reduce the danger resulting from the influence of the climate.

In reporting the state of health among the emigrants, by several expeditions, Dr. Todsen remarks: "You will see, by the above, that the mortality little exceeds that experienced in the most healthy countries of the world. Had these people been transported to England, or any other European soil, the probability is that the number lost would fully equal the within." In another letter he writes: "I have no doubt that even emigrants from the North, if they be placed and provided for in a proper manner, may, with few exceptions, be carried safely through the fever, and enjoy the same health as in the United States."

It gives the board pleasure to state that the colonists have become generally and deeply sensible of the primary importance of agriculture, and have engaged in it with a degree of resolution and energy that must ensure success. "Our settlements," writes the colonial agent, "every where present the cheering evidence of enterprise and improvment." "Most of the emigrants who arrived in the few last expeditions have already the promise of their labors being rewarded by abundant crops." The attention of several of the most respectable colonists has been turned to the cultivation of coffee, and twenty thousand trees have been planted by a single individual. The recaptured Africans, who occupy two neat villages, about three miles from Caldwell, are very contented and industrious, and their gardens and farms are in a high state of cultivation. At one of these villages, the agent lately observed "one tract of 150 acres planted with cassada, interspersed with patches of Indian corn and sweet potatoes;" and he remarks that "they raise not only sufficient for their own consumption, but a considerable surplus produce for the market."

Desirous of exciting still more a spirit of agricultural enterprise among the colonists, the managers appointed a committee some months ago to consider what means might best be employed for this end. The report made by this committee, and adopted by the board, proposes to allow premiums to such as shall within a reasonable time raise the largest quantities of the most necessary and useful products, also to such as shall first train cattle to labor, and use the plough in cultivation; that the introduction of certain valuable animals should in the same way be encouraged; that various seeds, fruit trees, and vines, be sent to the colony; that an assortment of agricultural implements be intrusted to the colonial agent, to be sold at moderate prices to the settlers; and that a public garden shall be put in cultivation, wherein may be shown, by careful experiments, what indigenous or exotic plants, fruits, and vegetables, will best reward the labors of the husbandman.

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Commerce has advanced during the year, and new avenues for communication and trade have been opened with the tribes of the interior. Caravans from a considerable distance have visited the colony, and the people of the Dey country have agreed to permit traders, to pass without delay or molestation, through their territories to the colonial settlements. They had been in the habit of obstructing the trade by compelling the remote natives to employ them as their commercial agents, and thus monopolizing the productions of the country, and raising their price in the market.

By the treaty they have signed, the whole channel of trade with the remote tribes is left clear, which must increase greatly both its measure and value. During the year preceding the first of May last, 59 vessels had visited the port of Monrovia, of which thirty-two were American, twenty-five English, and two French. The exports during the same period (consisting chiefly of camwood, ivory, palm oil, tortoise shell, and gold) amounted to $125,549 16—of imports, to $80,000; and the merchandise and produce on hand on the 1st of January, 1832, to $47,400. The colony is becoming known to tribes far distant from the coast, and Mandingo traders and others have visited it from the borders of Foota Jallou.

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The great interests of education have been earnestly considered by the board and the colonial agent, and the managers report a manifest improvement in the state of the schools and the general desire of the colonists for the acquisition of knowledge. There are six day schools for children and one evening school for adults, comprising altogether 226 pupils. The two female schools (one at Monrovia and the other at Caldwell) are attended by 99 girls, and the salaries of their respectable and well-qualified teachers are defrayed by a society of benevolent ladies in Philadelphia. Inadequacy of funds alone has prevented the establishment of schools among the recaptured Africans, who are importunate for means of education; but the board rejoice to learn that the charity of the ladies just mentioned will satisfy the wishes of these Africans, and that under their patronage a teacher for them, of competent ability and excellent character, has already sailed for Liberia. Many of these people can now read, and a Sunday school (of which there are several in the colony) has been established among them, some of their own number acting as teachers. Some regulations have been adopted, which it is thought will render the colonial revenue sufficient for the support of a general system of common school education, by which alone, in the judgment of the managers, the colony can have power of self-preservation, or of salutary influence over the natives of Africa.

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The relations of the colony to the native tribes are at present of the most friendly character; and it has ever been the desire of the board and

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XIV. Books

2. Report of Mr. Kennedy, of Maryland
H.R. report no.283, 27th Congress
3rd session, Washington, D.C. 1843