of the authorities of Liberia to maintain peace by strict adherence to justice, and by such acts of courtesy as best express the humane and benevolent feelings of the heart. Unfortunately, in the early part of last year, a controversy arose between some of the chiefs of the Dey country and the colonial government, that soon increased to hostilities, which proved, however, but of short duration. Several slaves, about to be sold, escaped from one of these chiefs, and sought protection among the recaptured Africans of the colony. A demand being made for them, the agent requested the chief to visit the colony, and declared himself ready to do justice in the case. This chief never complied with the request, but soon after died, and his sons immediately resolved on war, and endeavored to secure the support of the Dey and Gurrah kings. Several of the Dey chiefs openly united with them, while the Gurrahs secretly furnished men for the contest. A few of the colonists were seized and imprisoned; one of the recaptured Africans, in attempting to escape, was severely wounded, and the town of a native chieftain (a few miles from Caldwell) strongly fortified as a place of retreat for the aggressors. A messenger, sent to the enemy by the colonial agent, was treated with contempt, and the settlements of Caldwell and Millsburg threatened with destruction. About one hundred recaptured Africans were despatched against the hostile force on the 17th of March, but, on approaching the fortified town, they met with a repulse, and were compelled to retreat with the loss of one man. Prompt and energetic measures were now required. The colonial agent, therefore, on the 20th, placed himself at the head of a part of the colonial forces, amounting to 270 men, took with him a small piece of artillery, and, after a fatiguing march, on the 21st arrived in front of the fortifications at the town just mentioned, at half past one at night. An attack was instantly made upon the barricade, and in less than half an hour, the colonists were in possession of the town. For twenty minutes, the firing on both sides was incessant. The loss to the colonists was one killed (Lieut. Thompson) and two wounded; that of the natives, fifteen killed and many wounded. Kai Pa, the instigator of the war, received a wound when about to apply the match to a three-pounder, which, doubtless, prevented a much greater destruction of lives. The courage and ability exhibited by the colonial agent, as well as by the officers and men under his command, on this occasion, has left an impression on the minds of the natives, which, it is believed, will effectually deter them from any future attempts to disturb the public peace.

Six of the Dey chiefs appeared at Monrovia on the 30th of the same month, and signed a treaty of perpetual amity and peace with the colony, by which it is agreed that traders from the interior shall be allowed a free passage through their territories, and that all matters of difference which may arise between citizens of Liberia and the Dey people, with the evidences thereon, shall be referred for consideration and decision to the colonial agent. While the necessity of self-defence in any case cannot be too deeply regretted, and while the love of peace should be cherished as heavenly in its nature, and most benign in its effects, the managers still hope that the late contest will be followed by benefits of such magnitude and value as immensely to outweigh the evils that attended its existence. That the colonial government has secured the confidence of the natives, generally, in its neighborhood, is certain. "You can have no idea," says the colonial agent, "of the favorable impressions we have made on the na-

tives of the country; they are constantly sending messages requesting us to settle at different points on the coast, from Cape Mount to below Tradetown, (about 140 miles,) and means only are wanting to enable us to occupy any portion of the coast between these two points."

* * * * * * * * *

Although the managers can report no great advancement in the moral and religious interests of the colony, they have reason to believe them justly appreciated by the settlers generally, and guarded by many with devout care. Open immoralities are rare, the Sabbath is strictly observed, and public worship attended, by nearly the whole community, with regularity and decorum. Three churches have been erected during the year—one at Monrovia, and two others in the villages of the recaptured Africans. The state of these recaptured Africans is most interesting. We have already mentioned their desire for knowledge, and we may add, especially for religious knowledge; some of them have already professed Christianity, and they are represented to be, as a people, contented and independent, and rapidly improving in intelligence and respectability.

* * * * * * * * *

Much has been added to the strength of the society, in the United States, during the year. Its plans and proceedings have been deeply and extensively thought of, and ably discussed and defended. While opposition has been imbodied, and hurled against it reproach and defiance, its multiplied friends have stood forth calmly, but triumphantly, for its vindication, and borne its cause onward with resistless power.

The committee in the Legislature of Maryland, at its last session, to whom were referred memorials on the subject of the colored population, made a report, in which, assuming as an undisputed fact that this population is injurious to the prosperity of the State, and expressing a deep conviction that it cannot long be borne, they demonstrated that at an expense annually of $26,040, the annual increase, and at that of $40,200, the entire colored population, might, in the course of a single generation, be removed, and established in a separate community. The disposition to emancipate slaves, under circumstances which forbids their enjoyment of the chief blessings of freedom, so extensively prevails, that the committee believe provisions for abolition now unnecessary; and that, should means be provided for the removal of those voluntarily liberated, patriotism and benevolence will produce sufficient manumissions to give employment to all the resources that can be applied. The committee state that, should Maryland ever colonize her whole colored population, in addition to all the vast benefits, moral and political, she will have gained, she will be more than compensated for the work by the increased value of her lands. The Legislature expressed their approbation of the views of this committee by appropriating $200,000 for effecting the object it proposed; and three managers have been appointed by the Governor and State Council to consider and direct the mode of its expenditure.

In the General Assembly of Virginia, African colonization has been the subject, in all its relations and extent, of a debate of unprecedented interest and vast power. That mighty evil, beneath which the minds of men had bowed in despair, has been looked at as no longer incurable; a remedy has been proposed; the sentiments of humanity, the secret wishes of the heart on "this momentous topic, have found a voice, and the wide air has rung with it." A bill proposing an appropriation of $35,000 for

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books

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