must become agriculturists. Great advantages have been experienced, and more are expected, from a public farm, recently put under cultivation on Bushrod island, and designed especially to give employment to the poor, and aid in their support. This farm will also afford specimens of the best modes of tropical agriculture. The land is of superior fertility, and its situation so near Monrovia as to admit of easy communication to market, and yet so separated from it as to prevent any undesirable intercourse between its occupants and the citizens of that place. Twenty acres were under successful cultivation on the first of June, six acres of which were planted with the sugar cane. The plan of compelling paupers, when in health, to contribute by their labor to their support, has already greatly reduced their number. The whole number on this farm by the last advices was fourteen. It is designed to employ the women in the manufacture of cotton cloths, and in other occupations suited to their health and ability. A public farm has also been opened at the Junk settlement, on which individuals are permitted to labor in return for articles received by them from the public store. Thus far it has succeeded well.

An agricultural association has been formed in the colony, to encourage the cultivation of the sugar cane and the manufacture of sugar; and a few shares of the stock have been taken by the acting governor, in behalf of the society. "It is truly gratifying," he remarks, "to witness the zeal with which all classes of people are now turning their attention to the subject of farming. It is now with difficulty that a mechanic can be persuaded to work at his trade, even at an advanced price."

The United States ship of war Potomac visited the settlements of Liberia on her return from the Mediterranean in November and December of last year. The Rev. Mr. Rockwell, chaplain of this vessel, neglected no means in his power of ascertaining the condition and prospects of the people of Liberia. On his arrival in the United States, he stated publicly "that Monrovia had suffered somewhat from embarking too largely in trade; but that the other seven settlements were in a highly flourishing condition; that the colonists were industrious; their farms well cultivated; their children at school; their property increasing." He had asked numbers of them whether they would be willing to return to the United States, and had in every instance been answered, no.

The commander of this ship, Captain Nicholson, in concluding his report of this visit to the Secretary of the Navy, observes: "I would further say, that the colonies have now taken firm root in the soil of Africa; and though they may be depressed at times by adversity, yet by the gradual development of their resources, and the judicious assistance of their friends, they must finally flourish, to be an asylum to the colored man and an honor to their founders."

And here the managers are happy to introduce the opinions of the citizens of Monrovia, as deliberately expressed in the form of resolutions at a public meeting on the 29th of September, 1836, convened for the purpose of making known to the world their views of African colonization. This most interesting meeting was addressed by several citizens of the colony, under a deep sense of obligation to this society, and with an enthusiasm and eloquence worthy of the cause they had assembled to promote. Said one, "I arrived in Africa on the 24th of May, 1823; at that time the colony was involved in a savage war; immediately I had to shoulder my musket and do military duty. The circumstances of the colony were trying in the extreme; but never have I seen the moment when I regretted coming to the colony. My object in coming was liberty; and, under the firm conviction that Africa is the only place under existing circumstances where the man of color can enjoy the inestimable blessings of liberty and equality, I feel grateful beyond expression to the American Colonization Society for preparing this peaceful asylum." Said another, "I thank God that he ever put it into the hearts of the Colonization Society to seek out this free soil, on which I have been so honored to set my feet. I and my family were born in Charleston, South Carolina, under the appellation of free people; but freedom I never knew until, by the benevolence of the Colonization Society, we were conveyed to the shores of Africa. My language is too poor to express the gratitude I entertain for the Colonization Society." Said a third, "I came to Liberia in 1832; my place of residence was the city of Washington, D. C., where I passed for a free man. But I can now say I was never free until I landed on the shores of Africa. I further state that Africa, so far as I am acquainted with the world, is the only place where the people of color can enjoy true and rational liberty. I feel grateful to the Colonization Society for what they have done and are doing for the man of color." Said a fourth, "I beg leave to state that my situation is greatly altered for the better, by coming to Africa. My political knowledge is far superior to what it would have been, had I remained in America a thousand years. I therefore seize this chance to present my thanks to the American Colonization Society for enabling me to come to this colony, which they have so benevolently established."

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At this meeting a resolution was adopted expressing gratitude to the benevolent ladies of the United States, particularly of New York, Philadelphia, and Richmond, for their efforts to promote education in the colony, and testifying to the promising condition of the schools sustained by their contributions. These benevolent associations, and the faithful exertions of missionaries residing in the colony, have excited among its inhabitants ardent desires for knowledge, and inclined many of the chiefs and tribes of the country to solicit instruction for their children. Of common schools, the number is nearly if not quite sufficient. The American Society for the Promotion of Education in Africa has appointed a board of trustees and made an appeal to the public for aid in founding, at some eligible station in Liberia, a seminary in which youth may acquire a knowledge of agriculture, the mechanic arts, geography, navigation, and such other branches of science as may best qualify them for usefulness as teachers, or for success in the business of life. The missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal church, while having under its care seven regular day schools and others in the colony, has established at Millsburg, on a spot of singular beauty, salubrity, and fertility, under the care of the Rev. B. R. Wilson, a manual labor school, denominated the White Plains Manual Labor School, (in honor of the liberality of individuals in White Plains, New York, who have largely assisted to found it,) at which from thirty to fifty orphan or destitute children, either from among the colonists or natives, may receive support and education. These children are to be bound until they are twenty-one to the superintendent of the Liberia mission, who is pledged, as representative of the missionary society, to grant them ample means of living and of instruction in letters and the most useful arts. It is thought that the admission of children from the colony 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