provided for, they fell into such a miserable condition that men of a benevolent character felt themselves imperiously called upon to contrive a plan for colonizing them in Africa, is a sufficient answer to all objections to African colonization. The English set us the example of seeking a residence for the descendants of Africa on the coast of that land from which their forefathers were forcibly and wickedly carried away. This colony had been fondly cherished by British Christians, and fostered and protected by the government; and when Americans, influenced by the same motives, have engaged in colonizing the same kind of people, on the same coast, why is the enterprise viewed with suspicion, or calumniated as the fruit of unworthy motives, as it is in most of the religious periodicals of Great Britain?

But to return: the gentlemen alluded to procured from the native chiefs, a cession of a considerable district of land for the settlement of their little colony. The British government very liberally seconded their views by taking upon itself the expense of transporting the blacks thither, and of supplying them with necessaries during the first six or eight months of their residence in Africa. During the passage of these unfortunate people to Sierra Leone they experienced some share of the same evils which have been so often pathetically described as taking place on board the slave ships, by being crowded into too narrow a space; for out of four hundred and sixty who embarked, eighty-four died on ship board; and when they were landed in Africa their troubles were not ended; for before the close of the first rainy season, a hundred more of the infant colony fell victims to the climate or to intemperance. And in the year 1790, in consequence of being involved in a dispute between the natives and the crew of a British vessel, without any fault of their own, they were driven from the habitations which they had erected. The British vessel, by the imprudent conduct of the crew of which they had thus innocently suffered, had set fire to a town of a neighbouring chief. In 1791, they were again collected, through the agency of the agent of the Sierra Leone Company; and they now fixed themselves in Granville, two or three miles distant from Freetown, where they first settled.

Some of the most distinguished philanthropists of the age were among the projectors of this colonization scheme, and became directors of the company. It will be sufficient barely to mention

the names of such men as Granville Sharp, William Wilberforce, Henry Thornton, Joseph Hardcastle, and Thomas Clarkson. The motives by which these men were actuated, are above suspicion, and of the most benevolent kind; and we unhesitatingly ascribe motives of the same kind to the founders of the American Colonization Society. In neither case was there any room for any sinister motives to operate; and we have reason to think, that the suggestion was from heaven, and that this enterprise will to posterity appear to have been one of the most important, as well as the most benevolent, conceived in the present age. The pure and elevated motives which led these excellent men to engage in this scheme, stamp an importance upon it, which would by no means belong to it, if it had originated in the usual motives which lead to such transactions.

The company was incorporated, and a considerable capital appeared likely to be raised for carrying on the undertaking. Another company of negroes, who escaped from slavery during the American war, were conveyed by the British fleet to Nova Scotia. These, finding the severe climate of this northern province uncongenial to their constitutions, and having heard of the colony at Sierra Leone, despatched a delegate to England to request that they might also be transported to Africa. Besides the severity of the climate, they complained of the sterility of the soil; and, especially, that the allotments of land promised to them, when they emigrated to Nova Scotia, had not generally been received. Their petition was received favourably by the directors of the Sierra Leone Company, who joined with the delegate in an application to government to give them a free passage to Africa, which was readily granted. To superintend and expedite the emigration of these people of colour, Lieutenant Clarkson handsomely made a tender of his services to go to Nova Scotia and attend to the business. The agreement of the company was to receive all free blacks from Nova Scotia, who could produce testimonials of good character, more particularly as to honesty, sobriety, and industry, and to grant to each family a lot of land, in proportion to their numbers. The company had been led to believe that only a few hundred persons would be the number of those who wished to emigrate, but to their surprise they proved to be no less than eleven hundred and ninety-six. This large and unexpected accession materially affected the whole undertaking, and in-

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XIV. Books
3.
A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa
by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846