Craighead, Esq., presiding magistrate in Lunenberg county, Virginia. Mr. Craighead was a native of the state of Delaware, but in early life settled in Hanover, where he became an elder in the church of the Rev. Samuel Davies, and an intimate friend of that celebrated evangelical preacher. During the revolutionary war he was an ardent, active patriot, and had the honour of suggesting some measures to promote unity and efficiency among the Americans, which were generally adopted. He was a man of sanguine temperament, strong good sense, and warm piety.

The outlines of Mr. Craighead's plans as nearly as can be remembered were, that emancipation should be gradual, and that none should be sent to the new colony but such as were fitted for colonists by some suitable preparatory education. At first the numbers sent were to be small, but as the colony increased, and as the number prepared by a suitable education were multiplied, the removal of them might go on in a ratio increasing every year. Their relation to the government of the United States was to be something analogous to that in which the Indians now stand. This plan related entirely to the slaves in Virginia, though equally applicable to other States.

That the subject of emancipating the slaves was a matter of serious inquiry and discussion in the State of Virginia, toward the close of the last century, is evident from the fact, that St. George Tucker, one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals, professor of law in the College of William and Mary, and the editor of Blackstone's Commentaries, devised and published a plan for the gradual emancipation of all the slaves in the State. And although his scheme was by few considered feasible, yet the proposal of emancipation from such high authority created no excitement in the country. The plan was scanned, and its provisions discussed with as much calmness as ordinary political measures, in which all the citizens had an interest.

It will not, after what has been said, appear surprising that the Virginia Legislature, as early as December 1800, should have turned their attention to the subject of colonization. Their immediate object, doubtless, was to get rid of the free negroes, who were considered as not only useless members of society, but as exercising a very pernicious influence on the character of the slaves. Their action on the subject appears to have been not only secret, but extremely cautious. The resolution

which they passed almost unanimously, was couched in the following words, viz:

IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, *December* 31, 1800.

"*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to correspond with the President of the United States on the subject of purchasing lands without the limits of this State, whither persons obnoxious to the laws or dangerous to the peace of society may be removed."

A copy from the House of Delegates.

WILLIAM WIRT, *Clerk, H. D.*

Taking this resolution by itself, we should not suppose that it had any reference to the free negroes, but that it was the object of the House to obtain a penal settlement for such persons as might be convicted of high crimes or misdemeanours against the laws of the State.

Mr. Monroe, being then Governor of Virginia, in compliance with the foregoing resolution, addressed the following letter to Mr. Jefferson, then President of the United States:

RICHMOND, *June* 15, 1801.

SIR: I enclose you a resolution of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, of the last session, by which it is made my duty to correspond with you on the subject of obtaining, by purchase, lands without the limits of this State, to which persons obnoxious to the laws or dangerous to the peace of society may be removed. This resolution was produced by the conspiracy of the slaves which took place in this city and neighbourhood last year, and is applicable to that description only. The idea of such an acquisition was suggested by motives of humanity, it being intended by means thereof to provide an alternate mode of punishment for those described by the resolution, who, under the existing law, might be doomed to suffer death. It was deemed more humane, and, it is hoped, would be found in practice not less expedient, to transport such offenders beyond the limits of the State.

It seems to be the more obvious intention of the Legislature, as inferred from the resolution, to make the proposed acquisition of land in the vacant Western territory of the United States; but it does not appear to me to preclude one without the limits of the Union. If a friendly Power would designate a tract of country within its jurisdiction, either on this continent or a neighbouring island, to which we might send such persons,

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