in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and four, and of the Commonwealth the twenty-ninth:

Resolved, That the Senators of this State in the Congress of the United States be instructed, and the Representatives be requested, to exert their best efforts for the purpose of obtaining from the General Government a competent portion of territory, in the country of Louisiana, to be appropriated to the residence of such people of colour as have been or shall be emancipated in Virginia, or may hereafter become dangerous to the public safety: *Provided*, That no contract or arrangement respecting such territory shall be obligatory on this Commonwealth until ratified by the Legislature.

H. HOLMES,
Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Agreed to January 22d, 1805.

C. TAYLOR,
Speaker of the Senate.

A copy.—Test:

JAMES PLEASANTS, Jr., *C. H. D.*

On the suggestion contained in Mr. Jefferson's letter, the Legislature had their attention entirely turned to a portion of the vacant territory of Louisiana. And as their resolution contained instructions to the senators in Congress, and a request to the representatives of the State, to endeavour to procure such a territory, it was sent by Governor Page to them, accompanied by the following note, viz.

RICHMOND, *February* 2, 1805.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honour to enclose a resolution of the General Assembly, for an explanation of which I beg leave to refer you to the copies of letters which passed between the President of the United States and Governor Monroe, and to one written by the President to me, and by this mail transmitted to our Senators in Congress; but, for more satisfactory information, I would refer you to the President himself, to whom I shall apologize for requesting you to trouble him on this occasion; but I know that he will with pleasure give you all the information you may require. From the nature of the delicate business contemplated in the resolution, you will see the propriety of its being considered confidential.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN PAGE.

THE REPRESENTATIVES *from Virginia in Congress.*

To render our history complete, it is proper to mention here, that Ann Mifflin, no doubt of the Society of Friends, had conceived the plan of a colony on the western coast of Africa, and through a Mr. Lynd, applied to Mr. Jefferson for his opinion, respecting the practicability of such an enterprise. Mr. Jefferson's answer is interesting, and contains several important items of information, no where else to be found. The letter is as follows.

MONTICELLO, *January* 21, 1811.

SIR: You have asked my opinion on the proposition of Ann Mifflin, to take measures for procuring on the coast of Africa an establishment to which the people of colour of these States might, from time to time, be colonized, under the auspices of different governments. Having long ago made up my mind on this subject, I have no hesitation in saying that I have ever thought *that the most desirable measure which could be adopted* for gradually drawing off this part of our population—most advantageous for themselves as well as for us. Going from a country possessing all the useful arts, they might be the means of transplanting them among the inhabitants of Africa; and would thus carry back to the country of their origin the seeds of civilization, which might render their sojournment here a blessing in the end to that country.

I received, in the *last* year of my entering into the administration of the general government, a letter from the Governor of Virginia, consulting me, at the request of the Legislature of the State, on the means of procuring some such asylum, to which these people might be occasionally sent. I proposed to him the establishment of Sierra Leone, in which a private company in England had already colonized a number of negroes, and particularly the fugitives from these States during the revolutionary war; and at the same time suggested, if that could not be obtained, some of the Portuguese possessions in South America as most desirable.

The subsequent Legislature approving these ideas, I wrote the ensuing year (1802) to Mr. King, our minister in London, to endeavour to negotiate with the Sierra Leone company, and induce them to receive such of these people as might be colonized thither. He opened a correspondence with Mr. W—— and Mr. Thornton, secretary of the company, on the subject; and, in 1803, I received, through Mr. King, the result; which

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