boat, with four boatmen and our interpreters, making eight of us; and five natives, two of which were head-men, in two of their canoes. We ascended the river St. John's to the first island. The banks of the river are rather low, but suitable for cultivation. This island was formerly occupied by a slave factor; but since the English and American cruisers have annoyed them, the traders have abandoned this and all the other islands. In this river their gardens are to be seen; in them is a variety of fruit. We breakfasted here upon some smoked beef and bread, which we brought from the vessel. Thence we proceeded on to another island, to which Davis said he was brought, and on which he was sold to an American slave factor.

"It was with great difficulty that we prevailed on the natives and our boat's crew to proceed any further, because they said, "White man never live above that place." It appeared that they doubted the efficacy of their gregres, which they never fail to wear when exposed to danger. We passed two other islands, formerly occupied by the same kind of desperadoes. We still proceeded onwards until we came to rapids, which are from fifteen to twenty miles from its mouth. The land as we ascend the river becomes more elevated, with a fine growth of timber, admirably situated for settlements. We saw several small towns and farms, where rice and vegetables are cultivated. Davis read the twentieth chapter of Exodus, and spoke to the people upon the state of their souls. In one of those towns, people were very attentive; their reply to him after he had ceased speaking, was, "*Very well, we hear you, all very good what you say, we think 'bout it, we no sabby while man fash, we sabby gregre.*"

"We saw very fine goats, and sheep, and poultry. All the people wear gregres or charms; some of these are brass rings, which they wear around their ancles and wrists—one is a feather tied with a string around their neck—and what they consider more valuable, is the horn of a goat or a sheep, which the Dibbleman (as they say) prepares by filling it with a kind of glutinous substance, intermixed with pulverized charcoal, or black sand; some wear a little ball of clay tied up in a piece of white muslin.

"At three o'clock we put our company in motion on our return. At seven o'clock, the boat arrived at the mouth of the

river, and before crossing the bar, brother Andrus, myself, Tamba and Davis, went on shore, where we had a most fatiguing walk down the beach to Jumbo Town; our boat not being able to go over the bar before daylight, as the tide did not favour; therefore we had no boat in which we dare venture, as the native canoes were small and unsafe for us. Having been twelve hours exposed to the scorching rays of the sun, and having walked four miles in the damp of the evening, with our clothes drenched in perspiration, and being obliged to lie down supperless, upon a floor composed of bamboo sticks, without any covering but our wet garments—having no door to our cottage, and several hundred natives within twenty yards, drumming and dancing, until one or two o'clock in the morning.—Indeed these were times that the secret ejaculations of the heart ascended up to the throne of the Heavenly Grace, for grace to help in that hour of need. Nor was the ear of Jehovah heavy, that it could not hear; nor his almighty arm shortened, that it could not save; for we found ready help through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthening us.

"*Thursday morning, April 5th.*—We arose and felt somewhat the worse for our hard lodging, after our extreme exposure in that climate, in which, it is said, foreigners are subject to fevers and agues. Our boat came to the beach for us, and we went on board the schooner. Having heard nothing from the king, we concluded to send Davis with one of the headmen, to seek his majesty. Davis was despatched with a present. We this day learned from a head-man, that we could have land, but that we must go to the king's town to-morrow.

"We admired the friendly disposition of the inhabitants, but discovered their fears that we were connected with some ship of war.

"*Friday morning, April 6th.*—We went on shore, and went to the king's town, but could not see him; it was said that he was not at home. The distance is from two and a half to three miles; the land is most excellent, elevated and dry; we saw very fine rice fields: this town was recently built, and the houses are much better than any I have hitherto seen in the Bassa country.

"We returned back to the schooner, without seeing Davis, and sent Tamba to call him, but he remained. We are full of doubts and fears about obtaining a palaver with the king.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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