the Bassa people. We represented to them the advantages which would attend their relinquishing the trade altogether; stating that in a very short time it must cease, as so many ships of war would be sent to the coast, as to catch every slave vessel, and put an end to the exportation of the people; still they insisted on the condition; and at the breaking up of the palaver, told us we should have the lands, provided we agreed to insert the condition in the contract [book]. They directed us to explore the country, and, as the king said, 'lookem straight,' laying down his palaver brush in a straight position, and fix upon the tract best adapted to our purpose, at the same time indicating the quarter where those lands lay, which they could best afford to spare. We returned on board the schooner somewhat encouraged, but still we felt dissatisfied with the condition upon which they insisted; however, considering that it could have no practical operation, inasmuch as if, while in our infant state, we were to show a disposition to use any other means than persuasion in urging them to abandon the traffic in slaves, we should incur their displeasure, and cause the destruction of the whole of our expectations of future success, we were tolerably content.

"*Wednesday, April 11th.*—This day went on shore, when it began to rain. There has been a little rain every day for six or seven days past. It appears that the rains are setting in. The king sent a servant to us, with a message, informing us that he would be ready to receive us after the rains had ceased. We arrived at the king's town. We had a short palaver, after ascertaining that we could not obtain land upon any better terms. It is however probable, that at no distant period the natives may be be induced to abandon the slave trade altogether, without any coercive measures being used, as they will see other sources of trade present themselves to view.

"The king directed some of his head-men to accompany us, to look at the country. We walked in various directions, and returned to the schooner, having previously explored the St. John's river as far as the rapids, and viewed the country in various directions. We fully determined upon the territory which would be suitable for our purpose. We are more and more pleased with the appearance of the country and its inhabitants. The king took one of his boys by the hand, who was about thirteen or fourteen years of age, and gave him to us to

learn *Book*. We took him on board, and put a pair of domestic pantaloons upon him, which pleased him very much.

"*Thursday, April 12th.*—This morning the king sent two of his head-men on board to go with us and fix upon a place to build our town. We sent back a message that we had fixed upon the place, and that we were ready to meet him in palaver, at any time he should appoint, at Jumbo Town. He did not send us his answer until evening, when two of his head-men arrived with a present from his sable majesty, which consisted of a fine fat goat. His answer was that he would meet us at eight o'clock the next morning at Jumbo Town, in grand palaver. We are very anxious to know the final result.

"*Friday, April 13th.*—We met in palaver; there were more head-men and princes, as well as people, than at any time previous. Our present, of course, was much more valuable than before. We thanked the king for his present, and he returned the same civility for our presents. These people being ignorant of extent of territory, or of distances by measurement, we directed our interpreters to tell them that we wanted a large tract of land, and they described it thus:—Beginning at a certain tree on the beach near Jumbo Town, running due east by compass to the top of Saddle Mountain, or two or three days' walk, either of which would be a distance of from forty to sixty miles; from thence northwardly to St. John's river, a distance of perhaps from fifty to seventy miles; from thence down the St. John's river to its mouth; from thence along the sand beach to the aforesaid tree near Jumbo Town, inclusive; supposed to be thirty or forty miles square of territory. To our having this tract, they readily agreed, and directed their names to be set to the instrument, the conditions before mentioned being included. They all took hold of the pen and made their marks; they then cried aloud, "Palaver set! Palaver set!"

"The agent of the Colonization Society, engaged in behalf of said society, to give certain stipulated articles annually, which will not cost more than three hundred dollars. Pledges of mutual friendship were interchanged, whereby each party agreed to cultivate peace and harmony, and not to make war on, or trouble each other.

"Thus we at last succeeded in convincing them that we were their friends. This, we were assured, we could not have done, had it not been for the presence of *Davis*, and the entire ab-

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