The men trade and direct those who are under them. I saw a fine looking female with iron fetters on her feet, which fetters, no doubt, were brought from a slave vessel, as we observed one under French colours, lying in the harbour at the same time. I made inquiry concerning the cause of her confinement, and was told that she was taken in adultery. It is said by the natives that 'wife palaver, very bad palaver.' It is punished with death, red water, or slavery, and most usually the latter. These people are indeed in gross darkness, depending upon their gregres and devil worship. A town is not complete which has not a Palaver House and Devil House. The latter has a small post standing near it, six or eight feet high, with a strip of white muslin about three-fourths of a yard in length, and two or three inches wide, tied round the top. There they daily offer sacrifice.

"The Bassa country is situated between five and six degrees north latitude, and between ten and eleven west longitude, in the centre of the Grain Coast, which is about an equal distance from Sierra Leone and Cape Coast, where the English have commenced a settlement. Swine, herds of neat cattle, sheep, and goats are bred here.

"At evening we took an affectionate leave of the king and some of the head-men; the old king appeared to be much affected, and said, 'You have my son, you take him Sierra Leone learn book, when rain done you come Grand Bassa, then King Jack Ben give you plenty boys learn book.' The people are all apparently very anxious to have us return; they seem to have great confidence in us.

"*Grand Bassa, Saturday morning, April 14th.*—Many natives were on board with fruit, rice, fowls, eggs, and vegetables to sell, which we bought, chiefly with tobacco.

"At twelve o'clock we set sail on our return to Sierra Leone. We made slow headway; the wind is light. At six o'clock we are not more than three or four leagues from Bassa.

"We are turning our attention to the state of our settlers at Sherbro, and those at Sierra Leone. We think of visiting Sherbro as we return. We are very anxious to hear from our friends.

"We feel grateful to God for his mercy in preserving us, and enabling us to accomplish our wishes in some degree. Still, however, we have continual need of Divine assistance. Our

vessel leaks and requires much attention; but our trust is in God alone, who has hitherto mercifully preserved us, so that 'the sun hath not smitten us by day, neither the moon by night.' The pestilence which walketh in darkness hath not come near us; therefore we are under renewed obligations to praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works in the great deep.

"*Sunday morning, April 15th.*—At sea with a fair wind; we have just discovered Cape Mesurado. Had worship this morning as usual, and found it good for us to call upon the name of the Lord, to read his most holy word, to meditate upon his blessed promises, to praise him for past mercies, and implore the continuance of his most gracious aid. Our people having yesterday evening slaughtered the goat which the king presented us, it is necessary to cook some of the flesh, though it is the Sabbath day. It is very fine and fat, and quite a luxury, notwithstanding we have had plenty of fowls, fish, and oysters, fruits and vegetables.

"Prince Bushrod is a little sea-sick; he appears to be much pleased with his dress, and has been persuaded to take off his gregres, Davis having told him if he wore clothes, he must not wear gregres. We intend to let him go to Regent's Town, and stay with Davis and attend school, under the superintendance of the Rev. Mr. Johnson, where he will have the benefit of associating with some of his own countrymen, who are pious and useful people.

"*Monday, April 16th.*—Last night there was a tremendous tornado, with much rain; at the appearance of a tornado it is necessary to take in all sail immediately, as the wind generally blows powerfully.

"Our Kroomen are easily intimidated in bad weather; they have on their gregres, those which they think contain the most virtue, and are best calculated to preserve them from the greatest danger. I endeavoured to persuade them that their gregres were useless, and advised them to throw them into the sea, but my entreaties were in vain; one had his gregre tied with a twine around his head above his ears; I took hold of the string and broke it. On examining it, I found it was composed of a ball of clay, tied up in a piece of white muslin, with a small feather in the end; he was angry, and sorry for his loss. One gave me his gregre, that I might view its contents; they con-

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