to receive such liberated Africans as might be sent to them: whose duty it was made, if practicable, to restore them to their native country and friends; and if that could not be done, to provide, at the expense of the United States, for their support. It was under this law, and at this time, that the Rev. Samuel Bacon, and John P. Bankson, Esq., were appointed agents to go to Africa.

Although the sale of the thirty-four Africans was prevented by the timely arrival of the Rev. Mr. Mead; yet they were not immediately delivered to the agent of the Colonization Society. Certain Spaniards had put in a claim for them as their property, and a legal decision in the courts of the United States was necessary, before they could be given up.

Information was also received by the managers, that these were not the only captured slaves which had been introduced into Georgia; but that several hundred had been introduced into the State, in similar circumstances with the thirty-four; and that as many as sixty had been actually sold, and were in a state of hopeless slavery. The others, having been claimed, and the matter being still in dispute, had been hired out through the State; it being stipulated that they should be delivered when required. It was feared, however, that there would exist great difficulty in recovering them, as the securities on which they had been hired, were, in many cases, insufficient: and if reclaimed, they *must* still be sold into hereditary slavery, unless Congress interposes; or unless the Colonization Society should become able to pay the expenses of their capture, and claim them under the provisions of the law of Georgia, before mentioned.

It was also ascertained by the managers, that slaves, under similar circumstances, had been introduced into Alabama; but the manner of disposing of them is not known. These cases were laid before the president of the United States, in the hope, that he would bring the matter before Congress, and obtain the power—if he did not already possess it—to place them in the same situation as those brought into the country since March, 1819.

In the year 1820, the managers of the Colonization Society received an interesting communication from General John H. Cocke, of Virginia; the sum of which was, that General Kosciusko had bequeathed a fund, exceeding twenty thousand

dollars to Mr. Jefferson, in trust, for the purchase of young female slaves, that they might be educated, and then emancipated. It was supposed, that by incorporating this fund with those of the society, the will of the testator might be carried into effect; which could not be done in Virginia, as by the laws, no slaves could be emancipated to remain in the State.

Mr. Mead's visit to the South was not only the means of rescuing from slavery the Africans mentioned above, with the prospect of their being restored to their native country; but was, in other respects, highly beneficial to the colonization cause; especially, by the aid which he rendered in originating and organizing auxiliary colonization societies.

During this year, the society evidently rose rapidly in the estimation of the public, as many auxiliaries were formed in almost every part of the United States, and many of the most distinguished citizens of the republic openly appeared in favour of the institution.

We ought not, however, to omit to mention, that the Rev. Mr. Mead's efficient services were not confined to his visit to Georgia; for he travelled as far as Maine, as the voluntary agent of the Board, and every where, by his weight of character, zeal, and eloquence, greatly promoted the interests of the Colonization Society.

The communications from England, this year, were also very encouraging to the managers; and at home, among the liberal contributors to their funds, they had the pleasure of inserting the name of his excellency, M. Hyde de Neuville, minister plenipotentiary of France.

The President, in his message to both Houses of Congress, informed them, "that it had been decided to send a public ship to the coast of Africa, with two agents, who will take with them tools, and other implements which shall be necessary. To each of these agents a small salary had been allowed; to the principal, fifteen hundred dollars, and to the other, twelve hundred." These measures of the government were well intended, and favourable to the cause of colonization; but in the adoption of all such measures there seems to have been a great want of foresight, and careful attention to the circumstances of the case. For while agents were appointed, and the recaptured Africans ordered to be sent back, the government had made no

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