a few present, who had encountered and sustained dangers and hardships of a trying nature. It was the wish of the society, it was his wish to see them as soon as possible, rewarded for all their sufferings, by a home abounding with peace and all the comforts of this life, and the best means of preparing for one infinitely better. He had the satisfaction to regard himself as the personal friend of many present, and hoped these feelings would be interrupted by no fault or indiscretion on either part.'

"On the 12th of September, the agent wrote the following sentences in the Colonial Journal.

"'Rain falls in floods. The sick all seem better except Mrs. Ashmun. She is speechless, and almost without the use of her reason. There is no rational hope of her recovery. All remedies on which her husband dares to venture, have been tried in vain. He now with a burdened heart, resigns her up to her God, and scarcely able to support himself, painfully watches over what he considers the last hours of her mortal existence. When last possessed of the power of reflection, she declared herself happy in her God—and to possess not a wish which was not absorbed in His holy will. The reading of the Scriptures seemed perceptibly to feed and revive her faith in the precious Redeemer. She seemed to have intercourse with God in prayer. Her husband may follow her in a few days, or weeks at most; and he here ventures to record it as the first wish of his heart, that the will of the Lord may be done.'

"Mr. Ashmun strove manfully against the power of his disease, and the tide of distressing thoughts which rushed upon him as he beheld his wife, 'a female of most delicate constitution, lying under the influence of a mortal fever, in the corner of a miserable hut, (to ventilate which in a proper manner was impossible,) on a couch literally dripping with water, which a roof of thatch was unable to exclude—circumstances rendering recovery impossible, and in which even the dying struggle almost brought relief to the agonized feelings of surviving friendship.'* She expired on Sunday the 15th of September. 'Her life,' observes he who knew her best, 'had been that of uncommon devotion and self-denial, inspired by a vigorous and practical faith in the Divine Saviour of the world; and her end,

* Mr. Ashmun's Letter to Captain Spence.

according to his promise, was ineffable peace.' To this, we add, that in the recollections of her friends, are the impressions still vivid of her zeal and charity in behalf of the neglected and ignorant of this, and the wretched heathens of other lands; and how, from early youth, it had been her chief desire, that it might be her work and honour, to guide the untaught children of some uncivilized regions to the God of her hope and salvation.

"It was a kind dispensation of Providence, that the agent was spared to make the most important arrangements for the defence of the settlement, before the hand of disease rendered him entirely incapable of exertion. From the middle of September, until the first week of November, he remained in an extremely low and dangerous state, nearly incapable of motion, and conscious of little but suffering. As soon as the force of his disease was somewhat abated, he discovered that much had been effected by the industry of the people; that on the whole southern quarter of the settlement, the trees had been cleared away, and so thrown together, as in a good measure to obstruct the approach of an enemy. Their routine of daily labour and nightly watching, however, had been such as to forbid their completing the preparations; the western station was still uncovered; and the long gun, intended for its chief defence, unmounted. On the 7th of November, the agent was able to 'recommence entries in the Journal, and thereafter daily to take an increasing share in the operations of the people.'

"In the mean time, the kings and head-men of the country had held secret meetings to discuss and decide upon measures of hostility to the colony. By the diligence and fidelity of an individual whose name has not been divulged, the agent 'was informed of the sentiments of each, and often furnished with the very arguments used in their debates.' Some diversity of opinion existed in the war-council. Two or three of the chiefs were opposed to the war, but a large majority, not fewer than nine or ten, resolved to unite their forces and make an early attack upon the settlement. The agent, through one of their number who was undecided on his course, informed them 'that he was perfectly apprised of their hostile deliberations, notwithstanding their pains to conceal them; and that if they proceeded to bring war upon the Americans, without even asking

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846