On the fifth day of the voyage, he breathed his last. The affectionate memorial of this interesting young man, given by Mr. Ashmun, deserves a place in this history. "The bloom of youth had just ripened into the graces of manhood, and given to a person naturally prepossessing, the higher ornament of a benevolent and highly accomplished understanding. He perceived his services were needed by a colony which had interested his heart, and he gave them. Becoming the voluntary companion and assistant of the solitary agent, he saw the Cyane sail from the coast, with composure, on the 21st of April. His conciliating manners, aided by a judicious procedure, deepened in the hearts of the colonists, the impression first made by his disinterestedness. Seldom has the longest friendship power to cement a more cordial union, than had begun to unite to this generous stranger the heart of the writer."

Mr. Ashmun, notwithstanding his ill health and pressing engagements, omitted no opportunity of advising the Board of the state of the colony, and of suggesting such plans for its improvement, as occurred to his observing mind. The following extract will be read with interest. "Our little school is kept in operation, but it is a feeble affair. Our poor liberated captives work hard and cheerfully, but receive little instruction. My heart often bleeds for them, and others in similar circumstances. When can you send out a pious and accomplished schoolmaster? Permit me to say a word about a minister of the gospel. We are starving for want of the able, and regular administration of the word and ordinances. Does not *even the colony* deserve the attention of some missionary society? Let it be considered, that a zealous minister, catechists, &c., residing in the town, may bestow any part of their labours on the heathen. They may open schools on the opposite side of the river, which will be immediately filled with heathen youth and children. They may form in town a missionary family. The people of this part of the coast have no inveterate, anti-religious prejudices to prevent them attending every Sabbath or oftener, to hear the divine word. Very good interpreters can be procured for a trifling compensation. I am certain that an able minister of the gospel, clothed with all the authority and prerogatives of a commissioned ambassador of the Lord Jesus, is the man now wanting. Let catechists attend him."

The horrible nature of the slave trade as carried on in Africa,

by those who engage to supply the slave ships, will be understood from the following account of the proceedings of King Boatswain, one of the staunchest friends of the colony. "Having received a quantity of goods from a French slaver, for which he had stipulated to pay young slaves; and making it a point of honour to be punctual, and yet not having at present the means of fulfilling his contract; what does he do, but looking round on the peaceable tribes about him, he singled out the Queahs, a small agricultural and trading people, of most inoffensive character. His warriors were skilfully distributed to the different hamlets, and making a simultaneous assault on the sleeping inhabitants, in the dead of night, accomplished without difficulty or resistance, the annihilation of the whole tribe, a few towns excepted. Every adult man and woman was murdered; every hut fired; very young children generally shared the fate of their parents. The boys and girls alone were reserved for the Frenchman."

On the 24th of May, Dr. Ayres had returned to the colony, as principal agent, both of the government and society. By despatches that came with him, Mr. Ashmun had the mortification to learn, that his drafts, both on the government and society had been dishonoured; that neither had made any appropriation for his benefit; that he had been appointed to no agency by the government; that the society had invested him with no authority; but while it gratefully acknowledged his services and engaged liberally to reward them, had left his compensation for the past undetermined; and for the future, a matter for negotiation with the principal agent.

By the return of the Oswego, he informed the Board, "That by ordinary success in trade on the coast, he could realize at least four times the sum he should ever ask or expect, either of the government or the society; that it was his wish, however, to lend his services to the cause of the society, as long as they should be required;—that he felt unworthy of the vote of thanks passed by the Board, for endeavouring to perform, as well as he could, the arduous and perilous duties connected with the defence of the colony; and that to know that any part of his conduct merited the approbation of the Board, was amongst the most powerful motives for endeavouring in future to deserve it."

He continued to give the Board an exact account of the con-

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa
by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846