endeavoured by angry denunciations to drive the agent from his purpose; but finding him immovable, they proceeded to the store-house, where the commissary was at that moment issuing rations for the week; and seizing, each, a portion of the provisions, hastened to their respective homes.

Towards the evening of the same day, Mr. Ashmun addressed a "circular" to the colonists, setting forth the criminality of this mutinous proceeding; stating that a full representation thereof, would be transmitted to America, by the earliest opportunity—exhorting all to energy and industry in the construction of their houses, and the cultivation of their lands, during the dry season: and, finally warning them against disorder and rebellion, as they would avoid guilt, confusion, disgrace, shame, and ruin in this world, and in a future one the still more terrible judgments of God. They were reminded, that their oaths were as binding as when first taken; and the prospect for themselves, their friends, and their children depended upon their conduct; and that the agent, while disposed to use the language of friendship, would act as he had ever done, with the authority becoming the representative of the American Colonization Society. The effect of this judicious, seasonable, and solemn address, was happy. The well-disposed were encouraged; the wavering confirmed; and the rebellious struck with awe. The leader in the sedition, almost immediately confessed and deplored his error. And thus a speedy termination was given to this alarming mutiny, by the firmness, and wisdom of the agent.

On the 13th of February, 1824, arrived the ship Cyrus, only thirty-two days from the United States, bringing one hundred and five emigrants, mostly from Petersburg, Virginia, and inferior as a company, to none of their class, in intelligence, industry, and morality. Universal health had attended them, during the voyage; all were safely landed; some had property; supplies of ordinary provisions had been sent out for all; the season was delightful for building and clearing their grounds; and a mutual affection seemed to bind them together, as in one harmonious family. Mr. Ashmun was deeply affected with the goodness of God in this most seasonable relief.

He assembled these emigrants, and explained to them the views of the Society, and the regulations of the Board, and of the colony. They were exhorted and encouraged to proceed

diligently to build their houses, cultivate the soil, and with fortitude to meet and subdue the difficulties which might stand in the way of their prosperity. Thirty houses had been partially constructed since the departure of Dr. Ayres; and a new magazine was also commenced.

By the return of the Cyrus, Mr. Ashmun communicated to the Board a full and detailed account of the affairs of the colony, since the departure of Dr. Ayres; and entered into an earnest vindication of his own conduct, in relation to the purchases which he had made; the bills for the payment of which, had been protested. This defence, as far as can be now judged, amounted to a complete justification.

But the bright prospects which the arrival of the Cyrus had opened to the colony, were soon overcast, by a series of disasters. The whole company, which had come out in the Cyrus, without any exception, were attacked by the fever. No regular physician was in the colony; and the only substitute was the Rev. Lot Cary, whose skill resulted entirely from his good sense, observation, and experience. Not a pound of rice (an article most important to the sick,) was in the public store: nor had the agent either goods or credit, by which he could obtain a supply. Out of his own private stock, however, he advanced to the value of two hundred dollars, and despatched the colonial schooner to Bassa, which at the end of nine days, returned with only twenty bushels of rice.

The spirit of mutiny, which had for a while appeared to be subdued, still existed; and a number of persons continued secretly to fan the flame of rebellion.

On the 19th of March, it was found necessary to reduce the rations to one-half the usual quantity; which gave occasion to the malecontents to accuse the agent of oppression, and they did not hesitate to address to him the most opprobrious language. This induced Mr. Ashmun to assemble the inhabitants, and to make to them a solemn and affecting address, in which he showed them that they were bound by a solemn contract to the Colonization Society; and that by the solemnity of an oath, they had all bound themselves to the performance of certain duties. He explained to them the articles of the constitution, by which important privileges were secured to them and their children—that they had sworn to obey the government, and not attempt to overthrow it—that their peace and security de-

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XIV. Books

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