storm-shaken, but self-sustained spirit. His soul seemed refreshed by tidings from his native land, and his social affections to gush forth, pure and simple, as those of childhood, from the deeply-stirred fountains of his heart."

Mr. Gurley explained to him the object of his mission, and informed him truly of the unfavourable impression made on the public mind respecting his agency. His purpose was soon formed to accompany Mr. Gurley to Africa, expressing the hope that he might be "enabled to render him some aid in the arduous duties of his mission."

Captain Skinner having offered him accommodations on board the Porpoise, which he accepted, they came to anchor at Cape Mesurado on the 13th of August. It must have been of unspeakable benefit to Mr. Gurley, in the execution of his trust, to have Mr. Ashmun's company for three weeks; by which means he was enabled to acquire a thorough knowledge of the state of affairs, the temper of the people, and the difficulties with which he would have to contend.

Every day's conversation increased Mr. Gurley's esteem for his companion; and after his arrival he found that there was not a shadow of evidence to convict him of any impropriety or mismanagement. Not a man in the colony dared to accuse him of an unwise or an unworthy action.

Mr. Gurley found some things encouraging in the state of the colony; and many others of an unfavourable nature. Among the former were the health of most of the people—their improvements and fortifications—their morality and religion, especially their Sunday schools—and the warm gratitude which they appeared to feel towards the Board for sending a special mission to promote their prosperity. But of the latter, were their dissatisfaction at the decision of the Board—the protracted weakness of the emigrants by the Cyrus, and the want of medicines and a skilful physician; and, above all, the want of strict subordination to authority, and obedience to the laws. The causes of these evils were seen to be various; but it does not comport with the brevity of our history to enter into details.

While Mr. Gurley remained at the Cape, a plan for the more perfect government of the colony was determined on, with the full concurrence of Mr. Ashmun. Harmony between the agent and colonists seemed to be fully restored; and the new regulations went immediately into force. It was not the purpose of

Mr. Gurley to continue long on the coast of Africa, at this season; and before he left Washington he had received his orders to return in the vessel which carried him out.

When he returned to the United States he fully expected to be able to remove every cloud of doubt or suspicion which still shaded Mr. Ashmun's character; but, to his disappointment, he found that this was not so easily effected as he had apprehended. And when the regulations adopted by him for the government of the colony were laid before the Board, to his great mortification he found that they were not approved.

The committee to whom these proceedings were referred arranged them, in their report, under six heads: upon each they pronounced an unfavourable judgment; and this report, adopted by the Board, was sent to Mr. Ashmun.

But on the 15th of December, 1824, communications of a very cheering kind were received by the Board, from Mr. Ashmun. These furnished, at the same time, conclusive evidence of the zeal, ability, and industry of the agent; and of the great, and even extraordinary, improvement of the colony. His own account is: "After the severe struggles, reiterated disappointments and nameless evils, which had for so many years filled the annals of the establishment, to see the whole course of things suddenly reversed,—a horizon without a cloud,—and unmingled, uninterrupted prosperity, such as, perhaps, never before marked the early progress of a similar settlement, may well excite in an individual situated as I am, feelings but little compatible with the coolness which ought to dictate an official despatch."—"The official decisions communicated to them, along with the new modification of the government, were received with an unanimity of acquiescence, which I confess was painful to me. I feared either that they could not understand them, or thought opposition *at that moment*, unseasonable. But the event has proved my fears unfounded; and I now consider myself authorized to state, that there is an enlightened and growing attachment rooted in the bosoms of the great body of the people, to their laws, their officers, and the authority of the society. The participation of the magistrates and council (according to the new form of government,) in the deliberations of the agent, and the administration of justice, has tended chiefly to form the officers themselves to a modesty of deportment and opinion, which they never

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846