manifested before, and to secure to the government the united support of the people."—"I witness with the highest pleasure, the increasing sense of the sacredness of LAW; and, as far as I know, the feeling is universal. The system of government has proved itself practicable."—"The agent has adopted the rule, never to interpose his authority, where that of the proper officer, however inferior, is adequate to the emergency." And among all the items of pleasing intelligence communicated in this letter of the agent, none was so important as the last—an increased attention to religion among the colonists. "It hath," says he, "pleased the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sovereignty of his mercy, to visit the colony with an abundant effusion of his Spirit. This great event, an era in the history of the settlement, which has been marked in heaven, and will long be celebrated by its witnesses and monuments on earth, occurred in all the month of September. About the middle of that month, were witnessed the first appearances which gave evidence of the holy work."—"About thirty of our colonists, of all ages and characters indiscriminately, have, as the fruits of the work, publicly professed their faith in the Redeemer. They have *so far* walked as the regenerate children of God. A change in their character and whole deportment, was as obvious as would be their transformation to another order of being. From lovers of sin and the world, they have become lovers of God and his people. Bad husbands, wives, children, and subjects, are changed to affectionate relatives, industrious, sober, and useful citizens. As far as mortal instrumentality was concerned in this blessed work, it was exerted by silent, humble supplications to Almighty God, a holy deportment of Christian professors, and a plain, simple and serious inculcation of the saving doctrines of Christ and his apostles."

These despatches also gave information of the rapid progress of public improvements in the colony, and in the organization of the militia. A stone pier, one hundred feet in length, had been constructed in the river; several schools had been put in operation; and two new churches were in progress. Friendly negotiations had been entered into with the chiefs of the tribes in the vicinity, to encourage mutual intercourse in the way of trade, and by which they agreed to surrender any fugitives from justice, who might seek refuge among them.

The committee of the Board, to whom these despatches were referred, reported: "That in their opinion Mr. Ashmun had shown great attention to the important charge committed to him;" had conducted himself with "much prudence and propriety, generally;" and recommended that the Society should express their cordial approbation of his conduct.

After this, the clouds which had overshadowed Mr. Ashmun's character began to break; and it must have afforded a rare gratification to Mr. Gurley to find, that the new form of government which he, with Mr. Ashmun, had given to the colony, and which had met with so little favour from the Board, proved in practice to work well. Men, however intelligent and upright, who undertake to judge of the state of a people among whom they have never been, and to determine, on general principles, what system of government is best adapted to them, are almost sure to err. After two years' experience of the difficulties of governing the colony, Mr. Ashmun knew better what might and ought to be done to restore peace and preserve order, than all the wisest politicians in the United States. He had the enlarged views of a thorough statesman; and the devout feelings of an humble and sincere Christian. Doubtless, Mr. Gurley, though specially invested with the power of establishing such regulations as he judged most expedient, did not fail to avail himself of the longer experience and sagacious judgment of Mr. Ashmun. Indeed, it has occurred to us, that when this fabric of colonization is complete, the foundation of which has been so auspiciously laid, though in the midst of troubles, these two congenial spirits, Ashmun and Gurley, should have assigned to them niches, side by side.

CHAPTER XV.

ASHMUN'S ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED.

ON the 13th of March, 1825, the brig Hunter, with sixty-six emigrants, arrived at the Cape. Most of these had been brought up to agriculture; and now it was seen by Mr. Ashmun that

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846