there would be a great convenience and advantage in having an addition to the territory of the colony. He therefore entered into negotiations with the chiefs who owned the land, for a tract on the river St. Paul's. This was more especially deemed expedient, because he had observed that the attempts at agriculture had failed, because the land belonging to the colony was not favourable to cultivation: it was either too high and rocky, or too low and wet; or otherwise mere sand. The agent, to obtain a good tract of land, proceeded far up the Mesurado river; but was disappointed in finding such as he wished. He therefore turned his attention to St. Paul's river. The tract of country stretching along the south bank of this river met his views fully; and after a variety of delays, always incident to negotiation with the natives, he obtained a cession of the whole territory in question, and paid down part of the purchase money. This desirable tract of country Mr. Ashmun represents as having been once densely populated, and well improved, but has been desolated by the slave trade. The deed of purchase includes all the territory bounded north by St. Paul's river, and west by Stockton creek; except such scattered settlements as are now actually in the possession of the natives.

The importance of this acquisition the agent considered very great; the advantages of which he explained to the Board in a long communication on the subject. "It will," says he, "enable the Society to dispose of ten thousand settlers in a compass of ten miles from town: whereas, with the original territory, that number could not be comfortably settled within twenty miles; and the settlement will be capable of an extension of twenty miles, without leaving the St. Paul's, or big eastern branch of Mesurado, more than three miles.

"This acquisition of territory will secure to the colony, in a short time, the entire command of the St. Paul's, and with it the trade of that river.

"The country on St. Paul's being much more salubrious than the Mesurado, future emigrants will suffer less in their health."

Some ferment was produced by the dissatisfaction of some of the chiefs, who violently remonstrated against the sale of so large a tract of country; but the whole subsided without serious consequences.

Immediately, a number of families were designated to lay the

foundation of a new settlement, to be named St. Paul's; and a large passage-boat was soon placed on the river, to ply between the Cape and St. Paul's. And on the 13th of November, 1825, the agent accompanied the first settlers who commenced the town of St. Paul's. They hired from the natives two small houses, until they could provide shelter for themselves. "Such," says Mr. Ashmun, "are the small beginnings of this settlement. The blessing of God Almighty, in whose name, and for whose praise, those beginnings have been made, and are humbly consecrated, alone can raise its head to the elevation which it is the prayer of the agent—who makes this record, seated on a bamboo pallet, in a solitary native cabin, on the margin of St. Paul's—that it may attain at no great distance of time."

By the Hunter, the decision of the Board respecting the new form of government, and new regulations, was received. It threw a momentary damp on the agent's hopes; but being fully persuaded that they had acted under imperfect information of the state of things, he sent them by the return of the Hunter a full view of the present state and prospects of the colony. He also informed them how well the new system had operated in practice, and of the great increase of his own confidence in its full and ultimate success.

The Board, on the 25th of April, 1825, rescinded their former act, disapproving the new form of government; and having at a former meeting appointed Dr. Peaco, the United States' agent, the agent of the Board also, they now reconsidered and rescinded that act, in lieu of which they resolved, "That Mr. Ashmun be appointed colonial AGENT to the Society; and that Dr. Peaco, the Government agent, be authorized and requested on his arrival in the colony, to assist Mr. Ashmun with his counsel; and fully authorized to take upon him all the duties of colonial agent, in the absence, inability, or death of Mr. Ashmun."

This places Mr. Ashmun's relations to the Board in their proper light; but still all were not satisfied. An influential member of the Board, not present at the foregoing proceedings, at an ensuing meeting, had a committee appointed to investigate certain charges which had been brought against Mr. Ashmun's character. The report of this committee was highly favourable to the agent; and thus the last cloud which oversha-

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846