dowed the character of this distinguished man was dissipated: and his friend and biographer remarks with apparent exultation, "HE NOW STANDS ON AN EMINENCE IN CLEAR DAY."

Mr. Ashmun also possessed now the undivided confidence of the colony, whose best interests he endeavoured assiduously to promote by every means in his power.

But unclouded days, in this dark world, are few. The emigrants brought to Africa by the ship Hunter were nearly all attacked with the fever during the first month of their residence; and there was no physician to attend them, for even Mr. Lot Cary was laid up with a hurt. In these painful circumstances the mind of Mr. Ashmun was agitated and distressed; but the disease did not prove so fatal as was expected. The mortality was chiefly confined to children.

In the month of April, 1825, he made an accurate survey of the territory, and drew a map for the satisfaction of the Board.

At the close of the year 1825, Mr. Ashmun prepared and sent to the Board, a very full and detailed account of the state and progress of the colony. Health was restored; adults, some time resident in Africa, preferred this climate to any other, and enjoyed as good health as in America. The government had proved efficient and popular; the laws were venerated and obeyed; the sentiments of the people had been purified and elevated. The settlement on St. Paul's river, opened a pleasing prospect of greater prosperity in agriculture. The colonists are represented as living in a style of neatness and comfort, approaching, in many instances, to elegance, unknown before their arrival in this country. Not a family, scarcely, but could set a plentiful table, and appear in decent apparel. Mechanics and labourers received an ample remuneration for their work, and all found as much employment as they wished. Several important public buildings had been commenced, some of which were nearly completed. Two beautiful chapels had been erected, and dedicated to the worship of God. Four schools, besides Sunday schools, were in successful operation. The militia were organized and exercised. Moreover, the good effects of the colony on the native tribes, began to appear. Sixty of their children had been adopted, as the children of the colony, and had already learned something of the great and interesting truths of the Christian religion. "Our influence over them," said Mr. Ashmun, "is unbounded; it is increasing; it is more extensive than at this early period I dare risk my character for veracity by asserting."—"No man of the least consideration in the country, will desist from his importunities until one, at least, is fixed in some colonist's family." In this communication, he called loudly on the philanthropists of the United States, to come forth in the cause of education, in relation to this people, so solicitous to receive instruction. In the close, we have his views of the work achieved by the Colonization Society. "To the lasting honour," says he, "of the American Colonization Society, it has founded a new empire on this continent, of which the basis is Christianity, intelligence, and rational liberty."—"The society has demonstrated to the world, experimentally, the soundness of the views with which they appeared before it in 1817–18, without funds, patronage, or a precedent in the annals of the human race."

The year 1826 opened on the colony under very favourable auspices. Mr. Ashmun, in writing to the Board, says: "Our town begins to assume the appearance of a beautiful little West India sea-port, and certainly is one of the most delightful situations on the face of the globe. In beauty, and grandeur of prospect, no station can be taken on the Potomac, half so charming, or half so commanding."

The Board were contemplating the appointment of a Board of *Assistants*, as they had already a constitutional rule for the appointment of a Board of Agents. Mr. Ashmun freely expressed his opinion, as being entirely adverse to both these Boards. In regard to the latter, it had been tried, and had utterly failed. He insisted on the vast importance, in a colony like that, of having one directing head; and predicted, that if the Board of Agents should be restored, the anarchy of former years would return.

Two expeditions were fitted out this year. The first, consisting of thirty-four emigrants, in the brig Vine, mostly from Newport, Rhode Island. Eighteen of these, before their departure, were organized into a church. The Rev. Calvin Holton, as missionary, and a printer, accompanied them. The Rev. Horace Sessions went out also in the same vessel, intending to return in her.

The Vine sailed from Boston on the fourth of January, and arrived at Liberia on the seventh of February. A press, with its necessary appendages, many valuable books, and other

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XIV. Books
3.
A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa
by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846