important articles, were sent out in this vessel by the generous citizens of Boston, who assumed the entire expense of printing for the first year.

The other vessel was the Indian Chief, which with a hundred and fifty-four emigrants, left Norfolk on the fifteenth of February, and reached Monrovia on the twenty-second of March. In this went Dr. John W. Peaco, agent for the Government for recaptured Africans, who was also empowered to act as Assistant Agent and Physician for the colony. By the return of the Vine, Mr. Ashmun expressed the high sense which he entertained, of the importance of the printing press, and also of the arrival of such a missionary as Mr. Holton, who was about to introduce a general system for the education of the colonists. This plan embraced, (1,) the children of the colonists; (2,) native children, living in the settlement; (3,) recaptured Africans, of whom there were one hundred and twenty; (4,) a class of young men and women, with a view to prepare them to be teachers. It was also determined to introduce the Lancasterian plan of instruction. Mr. Holston was a member of the Baptist denomination, and went out under the direction of the Baptist Board of Missions. Mr. Ashmun, to encourage their efforts, made to it a grant (subject to the decision of the Board,) of a tract of land adjoining to Monrovia, on the condition, that a school-house should be erected on it immediately, and that it should for ever be devoted to missionary purposes.

In the mysterious dispensations of Providence, the joy which pervaded the colony on the arrival of the Vine, was converted into sorrow and lamentation. These emigrants were attacked with the worst form of the African fever, and one half of them, including Mr. Sessions, Mr. Holton, and Mr. Force the printer, were carried off by the disease!

The Rev. Horace Sessions demands a particular mention in this history. He had but just entered on the public duties of the ministry; and as an agent, had done much to arouse the attention of New England to the subject of colonization. He superintended the embarkation of the emigrants in the Vine, and accompanied them to Liberia, but had no intention of remaining. He wished to obtain such knowledge of the colony as could only be obtained accurately, by a visit to the place. He did not die in Monrovia, but on the passage home,

and his remains sleep in the same ocean with those of the lamented Mills.

The Rev. Mr. Holton went out to Africa, under the influence of that divine charity, "which seeketh not her own." For some time after his attack, he was not thought to be in danger. He even appeared at one time to be convalescent; but in July, he gradually declined, until on the twenty-third of that month, he gently expired. "His spirit was uniformly sustained by a steadfast faith in the promises of Christ, to whom at an early stage of his sickness, he had resigned himself without reserve; and never afterwards appeared to admit for a moment, any distressing anxiety as to the termination of his affliction."

With one exception, all the emigrants by the Vine, were natives of the Northern States, or had long resided there; and leaving Boston in the depth of winter, they arrived at Liberia in the very hottest season of the whole year.

The difference of arriving in Africa from a southern climate and from a northern, could not have been more manifest, than in the case of the emigrants in the Vine, and the larger number in the Indian Chief. These last suffered very little, and some who left Virginia in bad health, found themselves much improved by the voyage. Most of the emigrants by these two vessels, were stationed by Mr. Ashmun on the territory recently purchased, of which mention has been made; so that in the month of June, there were thirty-three plantations on Stockton Creek, and seventy-three at Caldwell.

During Mr. Ashmun's absence from the agency-house, with four of his family, at the anniversary of the Liberia Missionary Society, the house was struck with lightning, and the housekeeper—the only person at home—instantly killed. This was indeed a very remarkable interposition of providence, to preserve his life. While some vessels were in port, Mr. Ashmun proposed an expedition to Trade Town, with a view of putting an end to the slave trade, carried on very extensively, at that place. This expedition was successful, and a number of slaves were found in the place.

During the year 1826, the commerce of the colony had rapidly increased: between the 1st of January, and the 15th of July, fifteen vessels had stopped at Monrovia. Five of the most important stations on the coast, between Cape Mount and Trade Town, were occupied by the colony, either by purchase, or by

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