agreement to be used by them, on deeds of perpetual lease. This includes an extent of one hundred and fifty miles. The country at the mouth of the Sesters river, which is very fertile, and abounding in palm oil, and camwood, and extending up the river to its source, was obtained. Also the right of occupancy to a tract, nine miles south of Sesters, was secured. Besides, a perpetual grant, rent free, had been secured of an independent territory, lying between the two Junk rivers, from thirty to forty miles south of Cape Mesurado. Mr. Ashmun regarded this as a very important acquisition.

The confidence in Mr. Ashmun, by the natives, increased daily; so that they began to give him the title of "Head-man of all their country," and "father of we all."

In one of his letters to the Board, in this year, (1826) he says: "All this region of Africa opens its bosom for the reception of her returning children. I rejoice in the testimonials furnished in different ways, of a growing and enlightened interest in your Board, among the American people. It is one of those great and benevolent designs on which the merciful Father of all mankind loves to smile, which the American Colonization Society has undertaken. Its root is deep, and its growth, however gradual, I entirely believe, will be sure. But the greatest difficulties, for difficulties the cause has always struggled with, I never supposed to be on this side the ocean. To obviate prejudices, unite the exertions, and secure the enterprise of the whole American people—this is the great labour; and to such as engage in it and prosecute it, will be chiefly due the acknowledgments of posterity."

The colony had now risen from weakness to strength; and many who had been incredulous, now began to change their opinion, and to admit that the scheme of colonizing the free people of colour on the coast of Africa, was practicable. And as to Mr. Ashmun, his reputation, both in Africa, and among the friends of colonization in America, was as high as it well could be.

On the 11th of April, 1827, arrived at Monrovia, after a passage of forty days, the Brig Doris, Captain Mathews, with ninety-three emigrants, most of them from North Carolina. These, like those who went out in the Indian Chief, suffered but slightly from the climate, and at an early day, took up their residence at Caldwell, on the St. Paul's.

The ship Norfolk sailed from Savannah, on the 10th of July, with one hundred and forty recaptured Africans, and arrived at Liberia, on the 27th of August. Of this whole number, within one week after their arrival, not more than twenty remained an expense to the United States. They were taken by the older settlers into their families, for their services for two or three years; or were bound out for a reasonable time; or, when adult, hired out to receive equitable wages, at the year's end. And Mr. Ashmun's purpose was, as soon as they were prepared for it, to treat them, in all respects, as the other colonists.

This was the last year of Mr. Ashmun's agency for the colony: and as if he had anticipated that his time was short, he appears to have been more active and energetic in his operations, than ever. At one time, he had fully made up his mind to visit the United States, but pressing engagements led him to relinquish his purpose; yet Providence had determined that his useful labours in Africa, should, this year, be brought to a close. The schooner of the colony having been driven on shore, in attempting to cross the bar, was seriously injured. Mr. Ashmun, in attempting to save her, exposed himself for four hours, and thus contracted a rheumatic fever, from which, however, by the skilful prescription of Lot Cary, he recovered gradually; but being in a state of great debility, he was carried on board a ship going to Sierra Leone, that he might enjoy the benefit of the sea air. After his return, his health continued to be feeble; but the business of his agency was increasing daily, so that if he had been in perfect health, he could not have attended to all the concerns which pressed upon him. Indeed it is evident that he sacrificed his valuable life to the interests of the colony.

Early in the year, 1828, he made a fatiguing visit to the factories south of Monrovia; and on his return, found the commanders of several vessels waiting to settle concerns of business, and hasten their departure. The same evening the brig Doris arrived from Baltimore, with one hundred and seven emigrants, principally from Maryland; sixty-two of them liberated slaves. This arrival was on the 14th of January, 1828. And on the 17th arrived the schooner Randolph, from South Carolina, and twenty-six slaves, manumitted by a single individual. And on the 19th of February, the brig Nautilus, fifty-four days from Hampton Roads, with one hundred and sixty emigrants; mostly from the lower counties of North Carolina. There were now,

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