at one time, six vessels in port, requiring the attention of the agent. In regard to the pressure of business, Mr. Ashmun says, "Such an accumulation of labour, I never felt before"—"Days and nights are too short." And in addition, he had much trouble to defend the colony from a piratical, and strongly armed Spanish vessel, in which service he was much exposed. He was also, for three days and nights, continually engaged in negotiation, with the kings in the vicinity, which terminated in the conclusion, that a number of the colonists should occupy, without delay, the beautiful tract of country now bearing the honoured names of MILLS and BURGESS. This was succeeded by a laborious session of court, for two days. Thus he was occupied, until on the 5th of February, he was seized with a violent fever, which for a few days threatened his life; but his recovery was rapid. Still, however, it was evident, that his enfeebled constitution must sink under the pressure of business devolving on him at the colony; and his physician informed him that a visit to the United States had become necessary to the preservation of his life, and the restoration of his health. Accordingly he embarked on board the Doris, and left Africa for ever. The passage was long, forty-seven days to St. Bartholomew's, in the West Indies, during which time, his sufferings were nearly indescribable, on account of bodily illness, so that sometimes he despaired of ever seeing land again. But on the 16th of May he arrived at that island, but was unable to proceed farther.

Upon leaving the colony, he committed all the weighty concerns of the agency to Mr. Lot Cary, already mentioned, as a preacher of the Baptist denomination, and a physician, who had become skilful by experience, combined with strong good sense. Mr. Ashmun arrived at New Haven on the 10th of August. But he had only reached his native land, that there he might breathe his last breath, and there have his mortal part deposited in its kindred earth. He expired, "gently, and in a moment," says his biographer, on the 25th of August, 1828. During his illness his mind appears to have been calm, and much occupied with spiritual and eternal concerns, as appears by the devotional papers written about this time, which he left behind.

Thus fell another martyr to his zeal for African colonization. It seems to be the order of Providence, that every cause of real importance should be established and rise to prosperity only by

costly sacrifices of human life. So it was with Christianity, the best of all causes; and so it has ever been with the cause of civil liberty. Already our catalogue of martyrs to colonization is large for the time:—Mills, Bacon, Andrus, Sessions, Holton, Ashmun.

Before concluding this chapter, we shall introduce some particulars which were omitted in the preceding narrative.

Early in the year 1827, a treaty of peace was concluded between the colonial agent and the principal chief of Trade Town, by which the parties were bound mutually, to maintain and encourage friendly intercourse and an equitable trade; and to regard as inviolable, the persons and property of each other.

About the same time, the factory at Young Sesters was suspended, in consequence of the depredations of the surrounding people; and especially on account of a war breaking out between the people of this and Trade Town. Mr. Ashmun spent three days in endeavouring to reconcile the two parties; but in vain. This war, however, terminated more speedily than had been anticipated, and to the advantage of Freeman, the principal chief of Sesters.

During this year (1827) Mr. Ashmun founded an infirmary for invalids, on a plan which, while it secured to the aged, infirm, and sick, the means of a comfortable subsistence, good attendance and medical aid, provided that such as were able to do any thing to help to support themselves and families, should have the opportunity. It was not intended, however, for emigrants, suffering merely by a change of climate.

The whole system of schools which had been suspended by the death of Mr. Holton, was re-organized under the care of the Rev. G. McGill, an experienced coloured teacher, from Baltimore. The schools were sufficiently numerous to receive all the children in the colony, and all were required to attend.

The best method of providing for emigrants on their first coming out to Africa, had engaged much of Mr. Ashmun's attention; and the result of his thoughts was, that to purchase African provisions with trade goods was incomparably the most economical course that could be adopted. All emigrants should bring their tools; but those who came unprovided should be supplied with them at the expense of the Society. That they should be provided with houses for a reasonable time; and while on the sick list should be supported at the public expense.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846