It was stated as an indisputable fact, that the aged emigrants are peculiarly liable to fall victims to the African climate. Such, therefore, should not be encouraged to go out, as they, at best, can gain little by emigration.

Objects of public utility were never lost sight of by this agent, and he exerted himself greatly to infuse public spirit into the minds of the colonists; and not without good success. A company was formed to improve the navigation of the river Mesurado, with shares amounting to one thousand dollars, with the privilege of increasing the stock to four thousand.

No fact connected with the colony is more pleasing than the orderly and industrious behaviour of the recaptured Africans. Accustomed to the climate, and acquainted with the African methods of agriculture, they went on with but little interruption in the improvement of their grounds.

In the month of December, 1829, the United States ship of war Ontario touched at the colony, on her return to the United States from the Mediterranean. Captain Nicholson had had the benevolent forethought to collect a variety of seeds on the borders of the Mediterranean, which he presented to the colony; which donation was gratefully acknowledged by the colonial agent. When Captain Nicholson arrived in the United States, he gave a very favourable testimony of the contentment and general industry of the colonists. Every means was used to encourage the pursuits of agriculture, but still the strong inclination of the colonists was more to commerce, on account of the speedy returns for their investments, and as being attended with less labour.

At this time, by means of a coasting trade with the schooner of the colony, nearly the whole expense of the agency of the Board, and also that of the United States, had been defrayed. The net profits of this trade, during the year, amounted to little less than five thousand dollars.

Much additional territory, of great value, had also been obtained during the last years of Mr. Ashmun's agency: and as many as eight stations had been so far secured as that the colonial government had the privilege of founding settlements at these points; and the plan of the agent was, to open a farm at each of these stations.

One of the colonists penetrated one hundred and forty miles into the interior, and found a numerous population, industrious



and intelligent, possessed of a written language, with some knowledge of agriculture and the useful arts, and sharing largely in the comforts and enjoyments of social life.

Mr. Ashmun attributed the success of the colony, in a great degree, to the Christian religion; the good effect of which he had heard of before, but had never seen realized, until its effects on the colony of Liberia were manifested.

We attempt no sketch of the character of Mr. Ashmun. The actions of his life, and his success in sustaining the colony of Liberia, have raised for him a monument more enduring than brass or marble. He needs no sculptured honours to preserve his memory from oblivion. As long as the colony of Liberia exists, or as long as its history is preserved, the name of Ashmun will be famous. And when this infant colony shall have grown into a great republic, and shall have diffused the lights of religion and science over a benighted continent, no name will be more honoured than that of Jehudi Ashmun.

The Board at Washington, were so impressed with conviction of the importance of Mr. Ashmun's services, and the excellence of his character, that they passed a resolution to have a handsome monument erected for him in New Haven, where his remains were deposited, and another in Monrovia, the scene of his incessant labours.

Although we approve of such testimonies of respect to the real benefactors of their race—and such, undoubtedly, was Mr. Ashmun—yet we are of opinion, that Mr. Gurley has erected a more valuable, and a more lasting monument to his friend, by the ample Memoir of his Life with which he has favoured the public. We sincerely wish it were in our power to turn the attention of the public to this interesting and eloquent performance. It has not yet ascended to its proper level among the biographies of the distinguished philanthropists of the age. And we take this opportunity of acknowledging how much we have been indebted to this work in compiling this History of African Colonization. Indeed, our temptation was to extract much more from this interesting volume than would have been compatible with the nature of this work. But as we have derived much instruction and pleasure from Mr. Gurley's Life of Ashmun ourselves, we cannot do less than cordially recommend it to all our readers. Few men have furnished such ample materials for biography in so short a life; and few could

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