have used such materials more skilfully than the author—than whom no one has more imperious claims on the respect of the friends of this noble and benevolent enterprise.

We shall conclude this chapter by noticing several things relating to the society at home, which were omitted for the sake of preserving the thread of the narrative of Ashmun's administration uninterrupted.

At the annual meeting of the American Colonization Society, in February, 1824, General Robert Goodloe Harper, a gentleman well known in the political world and at the bar, attended and took a prominent part in the business of the society. And this was not an occasional and temporary paroxysm of zeal in this distinguished man; but ever after, as long as he lived, he yielded to none of the friends of Colonization, in active, persevering efforts, to promote the interests of the society.

On this occasion, he arose and addressed the meeting to the following effect:

"Mr. President,—I will call the attention of the society to a matter of some, though not, perhaps, of very great moment. It is to the proposition for giving a name to our African colony. Names are at all times matters of convenience, and sometimes of advantage. Our colony has at present no name. It is situated, indeed, near a Cape called Mesurado, and has hitherto taken its name and designation from this circumstance; but that is not a name appropriate to its object; a name that means nothing. In reflecting on this circumstance, I have thought of a name that is peculiar, short, and familiar, and that expresses the object and nature of the establishment. It is the term, Liberia, and denotes a settlement of persons made free; for our colony may with truth be called the home and country of *freedmen*, in contradistinction to those slaves, of whom they once formed a part. This name, if I mistake not, will be found easy and apt, and it certainly has the merit of being very concise."

This proposal was then submitted in the form of a motion, and unanimously adopted. He then rose again, and after paying a handsome and deserved compliment to President Monroe, offered another resolution,—"That the town laid out and established at Liberia, be called and known by the name, Monrovia," which was also unanimously adopted. General Harper then addressed the society in an eloquent speech, the

object of which was to show, that the grand object which they had in view could not be accomplished by merely private funds and voluntary associations; but that, in an enterprise so humane and patriotic, the aid of Congress should be earnestly and respectfully sought. At the close of his speech, therefore, he offered a resolution, "That a respectful memorial be presented to Congress, on the part of the society, stating the progress that has been made in establishing a colony of the people of colour, at Liberia; and praying for aid from the national Government, in the prosecution of this great and national undertaking."

General Mercer, who has been among the earliest and most efficient friends of colonization, gave his views on the state and prospects of the colonization scheme; but was of opinion, that it would not be expedient to apply to Congress at present. After some further discussion, it was finally concluded, that the resolution offered by General Harper should be referred to a committee of five, to inquire into the expediency of an immediate application to Congress, and to report at a subsequent meeting, to be held in March.

Dr. Ayres, on his first return to the United States from Africa, exerted himself much to excite an interest among the people, in favour of colonization. In company with the Rev. Mr. Boyd, of the Episcopal church, he took a tour through New England, to promote this desirable object. Every where he gave an interesting statement to the public, of the urgent wants of the colony; and of the absolute necessity of its being speedily strengthened, to prevent its utter destruction. This journey was attended with many advantages to the cause; especially by diffusing correct information relative to the state of things in Africa. The Board, also, in their Sixth Report, appealed to the benevolence of the public for contributions to enable them, at that critical moment, when the very existence of the colony was in jeopardy, to preserve the enterprise from absolute destruction. They say, "At this crisis of intense interest, when the weakness of the colony renders it exposed to disasters; when causes which could not impair a firmer establishment, may work its destruction; when the momentous question is, Shall Africa be freed, enlightened, saved, or shall all her hopes be extinguished, perhaps for ever? the Board

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