cannot believe, that they shall be denied the liberal contributions of their countrymen. They trust, that the editors of public papers and literary journals will aid their design, by diffusing correct information concerning it; that the patriot will think of his country, and give it his influence; and that all the ministers of religion will plead for it, in the name of Heaven."

In the Seventh Annual Report of the Board to the Society, we are informed, that after much difficulty and delay, they at length succeeded in chartering a vessel, and collecting emigrants. The brig Oswego, Captain Wightman, was the vessel obtained by the Board, to carry out the emigrants, sixty-one in number, and the stores for the colony which they were able to provide. Dr. Ayres, whose previous exertions had been so important, consented to return.

Just as the Oswego was ready to sail, information of a very alarming kind was received from the colony, relative to the hostile attack of the natives, of which an account has already been given. The reason for mentioning it here is, to give a proof of the candour, honesty, and good-will of the Board towards the emigrants whom they had collected to send out. They observe—"that duty as well as policy demanded that it should not be concealed; that those who were about to link all their temporal interests with the establishment in Africa, should not be left ignorant of its condition and prospects." A full statement was therefore made of all the facts which had come to the knowledge of the Board. They were plainly told that trials, perhaps death, stood in their way; "that a colony in Africa could only survive, through the efforts of energetic, patient, and fearless men; that regrets would be too late, when they were landed on a distant shore; but that they were now at full liberty to remain in this country." It is recorded as an honourable instance of resolution, that no change was expressed in the purpose of a single individual.

The Oswego sailed from Baltimore, on the 16th of April, and arrived at Cape Mesurado on the 24th of May. The joy produced in the colony by the arrival of this reinforcement, cannot be described. Soon, however, their trials commenced. Sickness attacked the new colonists; and it was an unfavourable circumstance, that Dr. Ayres himself was among the first attacked by the disease, in consequence of which the others were deprived of his medical skill and services. The mortality,

however, was not remarkably great. Only eight persons out of the whole died. And the Board were not discouraged by all the disasters and losses which had been sustained. By comparing Liberia with Plymouth, they found that the circumstances of the Puritan Pilgrims were much more disheartening, than any thing which had yet occurred in their colony. They remark, that, "since the origin of the society, two hundred and twenty-five emigrants, exclusive of those now on their passage, in the ship Cyrus, have sailed to Africa, under the patronage of the Board. The census received, with the last letters from Dr. Ayres, states the number then at the colony to be one hundred and forty. Let it not be supposed, that this diminution of numbers, has resulted from mortality alone. Previous to the purchase of Cape Mesurado, several discontented individuals abandoned the colony and settled at Sierra Leone, others returned to this country. Information of forty-six deaths only has been received by the Board. That more have occurred, the Board have no reason to believe. Twenty-two of these were among the passengers in the Elizabeth, the first vessel sent by the society to Africa, and occurred soon after her arrival, near the commencement of the rains, through the unhealthiness of the spot on which, for a season, they were compelled to reside; and various other causes, by which future emigrants can never be affected."

The last year, 1823, may be considered the critical year for the colony: its perils were never so great, and never can be again, from the same cause. At home the prospects of the society were unfavourable, and the funds exhausted. But in this report, they say, "The evidences of public favour which the Board have received during the year, have afforded the highest encouragement, and they can no longer doubt, that a general knowledge of their plans, will be succeeded by the common, vigorous efforts of the country to execute them, and that the design of the Colonization Society, notwithstanding the opposition it has experienced, will be consummated by the continued energies of a nation, and approved by the civilized world. A thousand powerful minds scattered through the Union, are at work for this institution. The objects which it is intended to promote, are every where becoming subjects of thought and conversation, and the spirit of deep concern for its result is

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