to Richmond, he appeared evidently to increase in wickedness. But he was a chosen vessel of divine mercy, and destined to act an important part in one of the noblest enterprises of the present day. Having been led to the discovery of his ruined condition as a rebel against the skies, he turned to the Lord with full purpose of heart, and was baptized by Elder John Courtney, and was received as a member, in the first Baptist church in Richmond, in the year 1807.

Lott Cary, though endowed with strong natural powers, was at the time of his conversion, extremely ignorant, not knowing a single letter of the alphabet. But hearing his minister read the discourse of our Lord to Nicodemus, he was seized with an earnest desire to learn to read, and did not cease until he had accomplished his purpose; and soon afterwards, he learned to write. About this time, he began to hold meetings with the coloured people of Richmond, and to exhort sinners to 'flee from the wrath to come:' the church observing that he had gifts to be useful as a public speaker, encouraged him to exercise them in preaching the gospel.

Having now the treasures of English literature unlocked to him, by the acquisition of the art of reading, he was not backward in availing himself of every opportunity of improving his mind, by such works as fell in his way. And his reading was not confined to such books as those of his class commonly peruse, but he extended his reading to History and Political Economy. A gentleman once entered his apartment, and found that he had been engaged in reading Smith's Wealth of Nations. He was also much engaged in preaching the gospel, not only in Richmond, but in all the surrounding country. His services at the tobacco warehouse were highly valued. Every thing with which he had any thing to do, was put in perfect order; so that if any one of the hundreds of hogsheads under his care, was called for, he could at any moment, produce it. This promptitude and order were of great importance in the shipments of tobacco. He often received rewards from the merchants, which he carefully husbanded and increased, by making small ventures of unmerchantable tobacco on his own account. By the year 1813, he had acquired a sum sufficient to buy his own liberty, and that of two of his children. The sum paid was eight hundred and fifty dollars. His first wife was dead, at this time, and in 1815, he married a second. He now received a regular

salary, which was increased from year to year, until it amounted to eight hundred dollars.

About this time, Lott Cary became deeply affected with the unhappy condition of the people of Africa, and took pains to stir up a lively interest among his brethren in and about Richmond, in relation to the spiritual condition of these people. This led to the formation of an African Missionary Society in Richmond, which contributed annually, for several years, from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars, towards the support of the African mission. But his active and benevolent mind could not be satisfied with the mere contribution of a part of his earnings. The desire to go in person, and carry the blessed gospel to that benighted region was like a fire in his bones. A great struggle was experienced between this pious and disinterested desire and his personal interests. He was now the possessor of a snug little farm in the vicinity of Richmond, was receiving a handsome salary, and his reputation as high as he could wish. Besides, he was the object of universal affection as a preacher, among the people of his own colour. There were also some discouraging circumstances in relation to Africa. The facilities for labouring there were few, and the climate was sickly; but none of these things could deter him from engaging in this benevolent enterprise. When asked by a brother in the ministry, how he could think of quitting a station of so much comfort and usefulness, to encounter the dangers of an African climate, and hazard every thing, to plant a colony on a distant shore, his reply was, "I am an African; and in this country, however meritorious my conduct, and respectable my character, I cannot receive the credit due to either. I wish to go to a country where I shall be estimated by my merits—not by my complexion; and I feel bound to labour for my suffering race." When his employers understood that he contemplated a removal, they offered to raise his salary to one thousand dollars; but this had no effect on his fixed determination.

As soon as the journal of the exploring tour of Messrs. Mills and Burgess was published, the purpose of Lott Cary and Collin Teage was immediately made up to emigrate to Africa. This latter also lived in Richmond, and had by great exertion and economy, raised thirteen hundred dollars for the redemption of himself, a son, and a daughter. Collin Teage had, like Cary, received no education in early life; but he had learned the busi-

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