called out instantly, the military of the settlements, and commenced making arrangements to compel the natives to desist from their injurious, and unprovoked infringements upon the territory, and rights of the colony. On the evening of the 8th of November, while Mr. Cary and several others were making cartridges in the old agency-house, a candle appears to have been accidentally upset, which caught some loose powder, and almost instantaneously, reached the entire ammunition, producing an explosion, which resulted in the death of eight persons. Six of these unfortunate persons, survived until the ninth, and Mr. Cary, and one other, until the tenth."

As soon as the intelligence of Cary's death reached the United States, a melancholy impression pervaded the public mind; but especially affected the minds of the friends of Liberia.

The following tribute to the memory of this excellent man was drawn up by those who were best acquainted with him, and in whose service he continued until his death:—the Richmond African Missionary Society. It was read and adopted at their annual meeting in 1829, and its truth and justice will be evident to all who have perused the history of his life.

"The loss which has been sustained, cannot in our estimation, be easily repaired. This excellent man seems to have been raised up by divine providence, for the special purpose of taking an active part in the management of the infant settlement. His discriminating judgment, his honesty of heart, and decision of character, qualified him eminently, for this service. But, especially, in relation to your society, is his death to be sincerely lamented. It will be recollected, that he was a principal instrument in the origin of this society, and for several years acted as its recording secretary. A little more than eight years ago, he received his appointment, and sailed, as missionary, in company with brother Teage, for the land of their forefathers. His exertions as a minister in that land have been of the most devoted and untiring kind. In the communications which have been received by the Board, he seemed to possess the most anxious concern for the salvation of the perishing multitudes around him. Through his instrumentality a considerable church has been collected together, which seems to be in a prosperous and growing condition. Sabbath and week day schools have been instituted for the instruction of native children and the children of the colony, which have proved eminently useful.

We were looking forward with confidence to the more perfect consummation of our wishes, when that moral desert should rejoice and blossom as the rose; but God has seen fit to cross our expectations, in calling from his station this laborious missionary. It becomes us to bow with submission to the stroke, and to realize the saying of the apostle, 'how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out.' Although we were not permitted to receive his dying testimony to the truth, we have the fullest assurance that our loss is his unspeakable and eternal gain."

While we are faithfully recording the labours and services of the ardent friends of this blessed cause, in Africa, we ought not to pass over in silence, the names of benefactors, who have by their influence or their wealth, promoted the cause at home. We have, for many pages, been occupied with the character and indefatigable labours of that extraordinary man, Lott Cary; but just when his sun had risen to the meridian, it was suddenly extinguished. Without a moment's warning he was snatched away from all his long cherished hopes of extensive usefulness to the heathen. And in the same year we must record the sudden departure of one of the earliest and most devoted friends of colonization in the city of Washington. Our reference is, to Doctor William Thornton. In another part of this history, we noticed that this learned and benevolent citizen had proposed a plan of colonizing the free people of colour as early as 1785, or 1787.

When the American Colonization Society was founded and organized, he was prepared at once to enter with ardour into the scheme. He was a member of the first Board of Managers ever chosen, and continued to be a faithful and punctual associate with the other gentlemen of the Board, until his lamented death. His temperament was ardent and his heart generous. While he was free in declaring and firm in maintaining his own opinions, he was candid and liberal towards those of others. His ardent mind would quickly kindle into a glow of indignation at acts of perfidy and inhumanity; but he was equally prompt to yield unstinted praise to noble and generous acts. If he was an enthusiast, it was an enthusiasm for the improvement of the human kind. Not satisfied with man's present progress, he looked forward with high wrought anticipations,

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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