and we occasionally saw the broad foot-print of the elephant. After following the course of this branch of the river for two hours, we found that we should have to leave it, or deviate from the course by which we expected to strike the St. Paul's above, where the natives told us it made a great sweep or bend, and 'made trouble or fuss.' We therefore left the river, and kept on northward by a cattle path, which soon brought us to a prairie. This was evidently an artificial prairie; and the numerous palm and cotton trees soon convinced us that this had been, at some former period, the seat of an extensive and populous native settlement. The appearance of the solitary palm tree is most truly majestic. In a plain on which there is no shrub six feet high, a half dozen of these fine trees will elevate their smooth round trunks, without a branch, eighty or a hundred feet, and then expanding their heads, by opening their broad pea-green leaves, they form a beautiful umbrella some twenty or thirty feet in diameter. After following a straight line through this prairie, which appeared to have been the favourite resort of the wild cattle and elephants, about two or three hours' walk, we began to hear the roar of the cataract, and now became convinced that we had taken the proper course, and would soon again be in sight of the river, breaking upon our view, just as we had ascended the height of a considerable mountain, which appeared to thrust itself immediately in our path. From this height, which is nearly two hundred feet, I had a view of the St. Paul's, only intercepted here and there by the density of the foliage. I found what the natives had described as a tremendous cataract or fall, was merely rapids in the river, produced by the sudden obstruction of its course offered by the chain of hills, on the point of which I then stood. As soon as I was able (for we had all been completely broken down in the ascent) I commenced the descent of the river, down a bank so steep that nothing but a strict adherence to the underwood could save us from falling down the declivity. On arriving at the foot of the declivity, close down to the edge of the river, I found that the sweep of the river from its original course was caused by its choosing the direction of this high chain of hills. The St. Paul's here is wider, and contains more water than the Potomac. It is a much more beautiful stream too, for its banks, though fully as precipitous, are clothed with the richest verdure, and this verdure is of a more variegated character.

"We continued to travel over the rough and precipitous shores of the river for about two hours, until we arrived at a point which presented to our view the first distinct fall we had seen. At this point we came to a beautiful valley, where a small stream, rushing down the rocks, precipitated itself into a natural circular basin of rocks, which presented the appearance of an artificial basin."

We have also a communication to the Board, written immediately after his return from the exploring journey, before mentioned.

"Gentlemen: The brig Romp, Captain Allen, from Portland, Maine, being about to depart for the United States, affords me an opportunity of communicating with you. This will necessarily be limited, in consequence of my having had a very severe attack of the fever; but I am happy to say that I am so far convalescent as to promise myself a speedy restoration to health. This month, although called by some residents here, the sickly season, has not, to judge from the few cases of illness that come under my notice, merited that appellation. Indeed, I do not know any part of the United States where the proportion of the sick is not full as great as here; nor are the cases of a refractory nature, almost all yielding to medicine."

He then proceeds to give the Board various details of the work performed, or in progress; after which he adds:

"The agriculture of the colony appears to be advancing slowly, but surely; but until we have some staple that will hold out greater inducements to agriculturists than the cultivation of rice and cassada, but little can be expected.

"Towards effecting so desirable an object, I intend commencing a sugar plantation this winter, which will give a stimulus to others to pursue the same course, and direct a greater portion of enterprise into a channel which will eventually prove very advantageous to the colony.

"The commercial prospects of the colony are at present very promising; and the trade to this place, both from the United States and Europe, will doubtless increase very rapidly, as the inducements held out to merchants are greater, every year.

"The Sabbath and day-schools of the colony are in a tolerably flourishing state, but the want of a person to give instruction in the higher branches continues to be severely felt."

He then mentions his exploring expedition, and promises a

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