full account of it in a future communication. But alas, this, as far as is known, was his last letter. His ardour of enterprise carried him too far. Before he was well recovered from the fever, he undertook this fatiguing journey; in which he was exposed to the sun by day, and the damps by night, at that season which is there reckoned most unhealthy.

The mournful account of the death of Dr. Randall was conveyed to the Board by a letter from Dr. Mechlin, a young gentleman who had accompanied him to Liberia, and who became his successor. He states, "that he died on the 19th of April, 1829, of an inflammation of the brain, brought on by too early exposure to the heat of the sun, and by a too close and unremitted attention to business, before he had recovered from the effects of the fever.

"Dr. Randall was born at Annapolis, Maryland. His father was, for many years, the collector of the customs in that place. Having received his education at St. John's college, Dr. Randall engaged in the study of his profession with Dr. Ridgley, of Annapolis, and subsequently took his degree of Doctor of Medicine, at the Medical School in Philadelphia. About the year 1818, he received the appointment of surgeon's mate, in the army, and was soon advanced to the rank of first surgeon. But in 1825, he resigned his commission, and commenced the practice of medicine in the city of Washington. Of the manner in which he performed the duties of his profession, one who knew him well has given the following testimony: 'Such was his unbounded benevolence and philanthropy, that no exposure to weather, no indisposition of body, no sacrifice of private interest, could prevent his efforts to relieve the distresses and promote the happiness of his fellow beings. To the poor, and those not well able to pay, he was particularly attentive, and not unfrequently performed surgical operations of the most difficult kind, without any other reward, than that (which, indeed, he most valued) of a consciousness of having fulfilled his duty. Instances, unknown even to his friends until recently, have come to light, in which, not only his medical services were gratuitously rendered, but even medicines and other supplies furnished to the needy and afflicted, at his own expense.'

"But his abilities, as a man of science, could not remain unnoticed, and in 1827, he was elected to the professorship of chemistry, in the medical department of Columbia College.

For some time before his departure for Africa, Dr. Randall had been an able and efficient member of the Board of Managers of the Colonization Society. In the various deliberations of this Board, he evinced a deep interest, and the opinions which he not unfrequently expressed, were manifestly those of a discriminating, judicious, resolute, and benevolent mind."

None who were associated with him, in the management of the society's affairs, can forget the amiableness and frankness of his disposition, the candour and liberality of his sentiments, the ardour of his feelings, the energy of his intellect, and the force of his purposes. "He was," says one well acquainted with him, "a generous, kind, and noble-minded man. Withal he had a warmth of feeling, which uncontrolled, would have been enthusiastic, in the ordinary sense of the term, but which it was his constant, and almost invariably successful effort, to order by a sound judgment. The achievements and talents of Ashmun, his predecessor, made a strong impression on him. He once thought Ashmun a weak enthusiast, and that his character was blazoned forth here by equally deluded visionaries: but his judgment was enlightened, and his opinions have been frequenly expressed, in terms of the highest admiration, of the extraordinary and diversified abilities of that greatest earthly friend to the African colony."

The same friend who furnished the foregoing sketch, observed most justly, that it is no wonder, considering the fine talents, the experience, the practical views of Dr. Randall, that he should have directed his thoughts towards such an object, as the government of the colony of Liberia. "The station required a knowledge of the objects of the society here and there. He had attained this knowledge at the Board of Managers. The station required a mind naturally firm, abounding with energies, liberalized by education and moral principle, and softened with benevolence. These traits strongly marked Dr. Randall's mind. That station would be completely provided for, if to the above qualifications were added, skill and experience in medicine. He was an accomplished and experienced physician, and that nothing might be wanted to protect the 'verdant spot in the wilderness,' he had spent his early life in the army, where he had acquired military knowledge, so necessary to defend the colony against the natives." . . . . "Hon-

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