others introduced. In their report, they approved the same, and recommended that they be considered as in force, in the colony.

The substance of the constitution, or fundamental laws of the colony, adopted by the Board, is contained in the following articles:—

ARTICLE I. All persons born in the colony or removing thither, to be free and to enjoy the rights of citizens.

ART. II. The Colonization Society shall make such laws and rules as they judge best; until they withdraw their agents, and resign the government into the hands of the people.

ART. III. Society's agents to compose a Board and exercise judicial powers.

ART. IV. Agents shall appoint all officers not appointed by the Board.

ART. V. There shall be no slavery in the colony.

ART. VI. The common law to be in force, as in the United States.

ART. VII. Every settler to take an oath of allegiance at the age of twenty-one.

ART. VIII. Agents authorized to make rules for cases not provided for.

ART. IX. This constitution must be so administered, as not to interfere with the agents, and regulations of the United States.

ART. X. Provides for alterations.

Mr. Ashmun, after seeing the operation of the digest of laws formed for the colony, was able to suggest several alterations and additions, which he communicated to the Board before his death. This code the Board, after revision, adopted. The laws relate to the following particulars:

1. Power of the colonial agent.
2. Qualifications of voters.
3. Annual appointment of civil officers.
4. The officers to be chosen by the qualified voters, but the agent to have a negative. The officers to be thus chosen, are, a vice-agent, two councillors, a sheriff, a register, and a treasurer, and for every settlement containing not less than sixty families, two commissioners of agriculture, two commissioners of health, and two censors.
5. The vice-agent to consult with the agent, and in case of

his death or absence, to assume the chief superintendence of the colony.
6. The vice-agent and two councillors shall constitute a council.
7. Vice-agent must consult his council in cases of importance.
8. The high-sheriff to preside personally, or by his deputies, at elections; act as marshal; execute processes, judgments, and commands of the courts.
9. The secretary shall carefully keep the papers and records of the colony, and record the acts and proceedings of the agents and council, &c.
10. The register shall record all public documents of the government.
11. The treasurer shall receive and keep safely, all moneys and public securities, &c.
12. Commissioners shall be the organs of government, and report to them.
13. The censors shall act as conservators of public morals, and possess all the powers incident to grand jurors.
14. The judiciary to consist of the agent, and justices to be appointed by him. All officers of court appointed by the agent.
15. Relates to the militia of the colony.

As many prejudices began to be artfully excited in the minds of the free people of colour in the United States, against the colonization scheme, and against the colony itself, the people of Monrovia, at a public meeting on the 27th of August, 1827, united in an "Address" to the coloured people of the United States, in which they undertook to give them correct information respecting the condition of the colony. This address is ably drawn up, and contains a clear and candid statement of facts in relation to the condition and contentedness of the colonists. And although it is long, yet, as it contains authentic information of the then state of the colony, it will be best to insert it entire.

"As much speculation and uncertainty continues to prevail among the people of colour in the United States, respecting our situation and prospects in Africa; and many misrepresentations have been put in circulation there, of a nature slanderous to *us*, and, in their effects, injurious to *them;* we felt it our duty,

Maryland Historical Society

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