"A vocabulary is here subjoined, with grammatical inflections of words:

	Singular.	*Plural.*
Water	Deam	
Fire	Gheahingol	
Sun	Nandjee	
Moon	Lauro	
Man	Gorkoo	Gorbai
Woman	Debbo	Eroubai
Head	Horee	Koiee
Eye	Yeteree	Gitee
Hand	Djungo	Djundai
Dog	Rawano	Dawaree
Cow	Naga	Nai
House	Sodo	Ouro
Horse	Putcho	Putchee
Cat	Musoro	Musodee
Bird	Sondo	Chiullee
Day	Handee	Nyandee
Night	Djemma	Baldee
Year	Dungoo	Doobee

"Adjectives suffer no change of gender.

"The pronouns personal are —

Mee	I	Meenorn	We
An	Thou	Anoon	Ye
Kankoo	He	Kambai	They

"Possessive pronouns are thus —

Horee-am	My Head
Djungo-an	Thy Hand
Sodo-mako	His House

"This vocabulary shows that the Fellatahs are not of Arabic origin, as suggested by the Revue Britannique, January number, 1829, nor of Berber, as M. Mollien seems inclined to think. This nation issued probably from the elevated plateau, about the source of the Niger, where a temperate climate may be supposed to reign. As the Fellatahs are found in the vicinity of Abyssinia, they would be identified with the Falasha, of that country, if their language should be ascertained to be the same. Bruce says that the Falashas are Jews, and speak the ancient Æthiopian. About this language, little is known.

"Negro languages possess a peculiar character. An investigation of the idioms of Tibbou, Bournou, Haoussa and Tombuctoo, discovers that they have no distinctions of gender and number. Perhaps verbs are not inflected. If the complex languages of the Tuarycks on the north, and the Fellatahs to

the south, which nations occupy co-extensive parallels of latitude, be compared with the simple, rude dialect of Soudan, it might be inferred that the great Author of the universe has made as broad a difference in the speech as in the skins of men. If a full investigation establish the fact that languages may be divided into white and black, then philosophy will demand illustrations of the moral history of man.

"The exploration of Africa has been an object of constant solicitude to the British Government. To accomplish this, several expeditions have been sent, at great expense, and its enterprising travellers have penetrated across this continent, hitherto the *terra incognita* of geography. The interesting question of the rise and termination of the Quorra (Niger) has not yet, however, been completely solved. The Quarterly Review of the last year, infers from the observations made by Capt. Clapperton, that it runs into lake Tchad, in the kingdom of Bournou. Whether it takes a southerly direction, and empties into the gulf of Benin, or flowing easterly, it falls into lake Tchad, is a question yet *sub judice*, and we may enter the field of discovery with peculiar advantage.*

"Our colony of Liberia is planted at a point of the African coast, which offers great facilities for voyages into the interior. The river Mesurada† takes its rise in the mountains of Kong, and in a district which, from mild temperature of climate, fertility of soil, and beautiful aspect of nature, is called by the natives, *Alam*—the country of God. It is probable that the Quorra has its source in the same elevated region, and that it interlocks with the Mesurada. If the Fellatahs have a western origin, they must be indigenous to these mountains; and it may be imagined that they have descended to the southern plains, as they now occupy the north. That negro tribe discovered by Mr. Ashmun, in the country adjacent to Liberia, which had advanced in arts and was familiar with the Arabic language, may be Fellatahs.

"The solution of these questions would be interesting in science, and is important to Liberia, which is destined to become a great empire, and may now be esteemed the nucleus of African civilization. At no other point could it so favourably

* The discovery of the mouths of the Niger occurred since this was written.

† This is an error. The Mesurada, or Montserado, is a small river, the St. Paul's being much larger.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846