constant intercourse with cultivated and refined society, controlled by sentiments, just, honourable, magnanimous, rendered him a model of the virtues most admired in public and private life.

"The talents, the fortune, and the character of Mr. Fitzhugh eminently prepared him for public usefulness, and as a member of the House of Delegates, of the Senate, and recently of the convention of his native State, he fulfilled the highest expectations of his friends, and stood acknowledged by all, an able, honourable, and eloquent statesman.

"He was a philanthropist, and felt that human beings, whatever might be their country, circumstances, or complexion, were related to him by the ties of a common nature, and must not be excluded from his regards. In the decease of Mr. Fitzhugh the Colonization Society mourns the loss of one who has left behind him enduring evidence of his early, steadfast, and efficient efforts in furthering its great design. . . . The mind of Mr. Fitzhugh was too candid, comprehensive, and benevolent, to remain insensible of those considerations, political, moral, and religious, which invest the objects of our institution with such immediate interest, and importance. From its very origin his countenance and support were given to the society, and in 1820 he was elected a vice-president. He was not to be discouraged by the calamitous events of its early history; nor yet by the violent and opposing currents of public opinion."

About the end of May, this year, there was an opportunity of examining Mr. Francis Devany, the high-sheriff of the colony of Liberia, who was on a visit to this country. The committee of Congress, to whom the memorial of the American Colonization Society had been referred, of which Mr. Mercer was chairman, met in the capitol, on the 20th of May. Several senators, and members of the House of Representatives attended, to hear the replies of Mr. Devany, to the questions which might be asked. The examination was also continued in the evening, when a much larger number of members attended; and the questions and answers were carefully taken down by Mr. Stansbury, the reporter to the House.

Before giving a summary of the information received from this person, it may be well to mention, that he was born in South Carolina, a slave, the property of Langdon Cheves, Esq., formerly Speaker of the House of Representatives: that after

obtaining his freedom, he practised the trade of a sailmaker, in the employment of Mr. Forten, a respectable and wealthy man of colour in the city of Philadelphia: that more than seven years before this time, he emigrated to Liberia, where having acquired a little money, he engaged in trade, in which he was so successful, that in six years he amassed property valued at fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. The brig Liberia, in which he came to the United States, brought in a cargo worth twenty thousand dollars.

Mr. Devany, in answer to the questions put to him by Messrs. Mercer, Spencer, and others, made the following statements. "That the colony experienced great inconvenience for the want of a national flag: several vessels are owned by the colonists—he himself owns one which cost one thousand dollars; and another person paid six thousand dollars for a vessel; but these and many other vessels are laid up and going to decay, for want of a flag. The persons of whom they are afraid, are the pirates. The English and French vessels have treated them kindly. The pirates consist mostly of Spaniards, some of whom sail in American vessels. The colony has six volunteer companies, in uniform, besides militia, amounting in all to above five hundred men. The colony has not been attacked since Mr. Devany lived there; owing to the strength of their defences. They have a stone fort called Stockton, which was repaired by the late Dr. Randall, and is about two-thirds finished. It is of stone and ten feet high, but the platforms of the guns are not yet finished. The stone used in this fort, and which is commonly used in building houses, is a blue granite, very hard and solid. They have another species of stone, much softer, and impregnated with iron. The latter is employed in Sierra Leone, almost exclusively; but in Monrovia it is used for window-sills and chimney-pieces. Lime in abundance, they get from the shells on the Junk river. It is of the best quality, and makes good, hard, finished walls. Wood being plenty, they have all the building materials they can desire, with the exception of iron. The harbour is counted the best on the coast, and is seldom without vessels. There are nine feet water on the bar, and from twelve to sixteen inside of it.

"The prevailing morals of the colony are good. Witnessed but one fight since his residence in Liberia, and that was a political quarrel between one of the colonists and a citizen of

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