Sierra Leone, who spoke disparagingly of the American colony. No instance of a capital crime had yet occurred. Where the laws of the colony are silent, they resort to those of the United States. The courts, when sitting, are well attended. Witnesses are brought up by a process of subpœna, as in the United States. Two persons only are addicted to intemperance, but it is not habitual. There are three churches, frame buildings, one of which has a steeple. One belongs to the Methodists, one to the Baptists, and one, not yet finished, to the Presbyterians. Divine service is attended three times on the Sabbath, and also on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The Sunday schools are attended by many of the native children. All who can be decently clad are in the habit of attending. The natives in the colony are adopting our modes of dress. Formerly their females were very partially covered, but now, when in their native costume, they will not come publicly into the town. No dancing is practised; the religious part of the community have prevailed in discouraging it. Several of the neighbouring tribes have voluntarily put themselves under the protection of the colony.

"A very active trade is carried on at Monrovia. A colonist by the name of Waring, will have sold goods this year to the amount of seventy thousand dollars. Mr. Devany's own sales are from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars. Coffee is very abundant in the higher and more rocky grounds; on sandy soil, it is not so plenty. The produce of the plants is very various; from some trees, enough may be gathered to fill a pocket handkerchief of the largest size, while others will not yield more than half a pound. It resembles the coffee of Java, being white, and of large grain. The colony, as yet, had not made coffee an article of export; they gather, however, enough for their own consumption. They export dye-woods, hides, ivory, palm-oil, and rice. Provisions are plenty, and in order to keep the native trade, they are sometimes taken in greater quantity than they are needed. The traders refuse none that are brought to them. The colonists in general, are well satisfied with their situation. The exceptions are very few, and consist of some old women, and persons of weak capacity, such as the colonists would be glad to get rid of. One or two, however, have been so dissatisfied as to remove: one in particular, came over in the same vessel with himself.

"The health of the colony is, in general, good. From ten days to six weeks after arrival, strangers are liable to attacks of ague and fever, but after that time they are generally healthy.

Mr. Devany said "that he had travelled up the St. Paul's river till he came to a series of falls, extending ten or twelve miles, in which space the water often falls, perpendicularly, twenty, thirty, or even fifty feet. About sixty or eighty miles up this river, is the country of King Boatswain. The intermediate country is finely wooded, abounding with valuable ship-timber. They have a species of oak which is evergreen, and grows to the size of five or six feet in diameter at the stump, rising from sixty to a hundred feet, and even to a hundred and ten feet, without a limb. They have, besides, a species of poplar, of a reddish colour, which works well, and is employed by joiners for the inside work of houses.

"The disease known at Cape Coast, as the *worm*, is not known at Monrovia. They have some timber, which after lying on the ground ten years, never has a worm. They have a species of teak similar to that in Brazil: also a brimstone wood, much resembling mahogany, but of a lighter colour. They have the great ant of Africa; which, however, instead of an annoyance, proves serviceable in clearing their houses from vermin of every description. A band of these insects will attack and master a rat, and having put him to death, will divide his body into small pieces, and marshalling themselves in array, will carry every particle of the spoil out of the house, to their nests.

"They paid one of their teachers a salary of four hundred and fifty dollars; but he did not consider this sufficient, and engaged in the business of a surveyor. The newspaper published in Monrovia, has between two and three hundred subscribers.

"Mr. Devany had visited Sierra Leone, but found it by no means in so prosperous a condition, as their own colony. He attributed the difference to the residence of European traders among them, who had engrossed the commerce to themselves, and who treated the coloured population with as little respect as they would receive in Carolina or Georgia.

"The Liberia agents treat the coloured people well; making no difference whatever on account of colour. The people have great respect for the agents, but feel themselves to be at the

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