head of their own society. Much activity and emulation prevail: each settler endeavours to push his own fortune by all lawful and honourable means. If one builds himself a good house this season, his neighbour will try to have as good a one the next. But this competition is attended with no ill will.

"To every colonist who arrives, a lot is assigned of a quarter of an acre, and fifteen acres in the neighbourhood; but to such as wish to become farmers, fifty acres of land are granted. The soil is cultivated with ease.

"The climate is mild and uniform; the thermometer never sinking below 68°, nor rising above 88°; perhaps once it has risen above 90°. There is a constant sea-breeze, and sometimes the weather is quite cool; never so cold, however, as to produce frost. There are no chimneys except to the kitchens; but in cold weather, it is customary to use small furnaces with charcoal. Many of the houses are built of stone, others of logs, weather-boarded. Some of them are painted white, with green venetian blinds.

"They have gardens abounding with vegetables, and various native fruits. The pine-apple is common, and they have a species of cherry growing in large clusters like grapes. The tamarind is common, and the palm-tree abounds, and is of great value; palm-oil is worth five or six cents a pound. They buy it from the natives for eight or ten cents a gallon.

"The slave trade is not suffered to exist within the colony; nor is it to be found within a space of forty-five or fifty miles, on each side of Cape Mesurado. Any person found engaged in this traffic, within the colony, is imprisoned. The crime is piracy by their law, and none of the colonists have been engaged in it."

This account of the state of the colony, from a man who had resided there, for many years, is every way worthy of credit; and, indeed, carries internal evidence of its truth, to every candid mind.

We have also, a very satisfactory letter on the subject of Liberia, from Captain W. E. Sherman, a judicious and pious man, who took out the emigrants, who sailed in the Liberia. This letter is addressed to Mr. Edward Hallowell, dated May 10, 1830. Some extracts will be gratifying to those who wish to contemplate the progress of the colony, from year to year.

"Monrovia, at present, consists of about ninety dwelling

houses and stores, two houses for public worship, and a council-house. Many of the dwellings are handsome and convenient, and all of them comfortable. The plot of the town is cleared more than a mile square, elevated about seventy feet above the level of the sea, and it contains seven hundred inhabitants. The streets are generally one hundred feet wide, and like those of our good city, (Philadelphia,) intersect each other at right angles.

"The Agent of the Colonization Society is the chief magistrate, and the physician of the colony, his assistant.

"No white people are allowed to reside in the colony for the purposes of trade, or of pursuing any mechanical business; such being intended for the exclusive benefit of the coloured people. The colonial secretary, collector of customs, surveyor, and constables, are appointed by the agent—the vice-agent, sheriff, treasurers, and all other civil offices, are filled by the coloured people.

"The court holds its sessions on the first Monday in every month; juries are empannelled as with us, and its jurisdiction extends over the whole colony.

"The township of Caldwell is about seven miles from Monrovia, on St. Paul's river, and contains a population of five hundred and sixty agriculturists. The soil is exceedingly fertile, the situation pleasant, and the people satisfied and happy.

"Millsburg is situated twenty-five miles from Monrovia, on the St. Paul's at the head of tide-water, where there are never failing streams, sufficient for one hundred mills; and there is timber enough, in their immediate neighbourhood, for their employment, if used for the purpose of sawing, for half a century. The town contains two hundred inhabitants.

"Bushrod Island separates Mesurado from St. Paul's river, and is seven miles in length, three at its extreme breadth, about five miles from Monrovia, and is very fertile. On this island are settled thirty families, from the Carolinas. All the above settlers, amounting to at least fifteen hundred, are emigrants from the United States.

"On the left bank of Stockton creek, and near Bushrod Island, the recaptured Africans are located; two hundred and fifty of whom were sent out by the Government of the United States, and one hundred and fifty, taken by the colonists, from

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846