them were of very great importance. Addresses were made by Elliott Cresson, Esq., of Philadelphia; by the Hon. Mr. Wilson, of Maryland; by Mr. Custis, of Arlington; by Gerrit Smith, of New York; by Mr. Doddridge, of Virginia; by the Rev. Calvin Colton, of Massachusetts; by the Hon. Mr. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey; by the Hon. Mr. Bates, of Massachusetts; and by J. S. Benham, Esq.

By the successive arrivals of the Carolinian of Philadelphia, the Volador of Baltimore, the Zembuca of Baltimore, and the Reaper of Salem, intelligence was received from the colony, and a letter from Dr. Mechlin, the colonial agent. These despatches mention the death of the wife and child of the Rev. Benjamin Rush Skinner, the Baptist missionary, who, under the direction of the Baptist Board, had gone out, last year, to Liberia.

Dr. Mechlin remarks, "I was much gratified, on my arrival, to find affairs in a more prosperous condition than my most sanguine anticipations had led me to expect. Indeed, the spirit of improvement appears to have pervaded all classes. Upwards of twenty-five substantial stone and frame buildings have been erected in Monrovia, and several walls are now in progress; and I am credibly informed (for I have not had time to examine for myself) that our agricultural interests have advanced more during the present, than any preceding year—in fact the people seem to be sensible that much may be effected by a little exertion, and appear determined to use their utmost efforts to develope the resources of the country."

"Our relations with the natives continue to be of the most amicable kind, and our influence over them is rapidly extending. Applications have been recently made to receive under our protection, several in our vicinity. A head-man, named Far Gay, has placed himself with his people under our protection, surrendering all authority over them to the colonial government. Prince Will and King Tom, of Junk, wish to make a similar arrangement, but not exactly on the same terms. The sea-coast already belongs to us; they now wish us to purchase the interior from them, (which can be effected at a moderate price,) and assume the internal government of the country. This they are anxious to effect, to secure themselves from being molested by King Boatswain; who has been for some time at war with the tribes at Little Bassa. I think it advisable, that

their request should be acceded to; otherwise we might lose the influence we now possess, and want of power to protect them would no doubt be assigned as a reason for our refusal. At present, the natives in our vicinity deem it no small privilege to be permitted to call themselves Americans.

"Our public schools continue much in the same state as when I departed for the United States, but the colonists seem to be more alive to the importance of education, and I have no doubt will cheerfully afford every assistance in their power towards rendering the regulation lately adopted by the Board as efficient as possible. I cannot close this despatch without expressing my warmest approbation of the able manner in which the colonial affairs have been conducted by the present vice-agent, Mr. A. D. Williams. During my absence, every thing appears to have gone on with the greatest regularity; and the most rigid economy, consistent with the public welfare, has been observed. Indeed, under all circumstances, and in every situation, I think him entitled to your unlimited confidence."

In a letter written some weeks afterwards, Dr. Mechlin says: "It is with pleasure I announce to you, the safe arrival of the brig Volador, after a voyage of thirty-nine days, with all her passengers, eighty-three in number, in good health. I think, from the appearance of these people, they will prove an acquisition to our colony. They have all been landed with their effects, and with few exceptions, sent to Caldwell, where they will be placed under the medical superintendence of Dr. Todsen, until they have in a measure become acclimated, when a portion of them will be located at Millsburg. I think it probable, that most of them will have the fever slightly, as they came from the lower parts of Virginia and North Carolina. The experience of former emigrations having proved that the disease of the country affects such in a slighter degree than those from the northern, or from the mountainous parts of the southern States.

"On the 5th inst. I exposed at public sale, on a credit of three, six, and nine months, some of the lots in Monrovia, on the margin of the river—the result exceeded my most sanguine expectations, and will place at my disposal for the purposes of education, a much greater sum than I anticipated, and will enable me, at once, to carry into operation the school-system, author-

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