ized by the Board. Enclosed, you will receive a copy of an act for the support of schools, passed by the agent and council.

"The request of the Board that I should discourage the sale of ardent spirits in the colony, shall receive my earliest and most serious consideration.

"The school-houses will be commenced immediately, and I hope completed by the middle of April. Directors of schools have been appointed agreeably to the resolutions of the Board, as well as teachers for Monrovia and Caldwell.

"The deaths among the Carolinian's emigrants have been more numerous than I anticipated, and have occurred chiefly in those families from the mountainous parts of Virginia. Out of the one hundred and seven emigrants by this vessel, twenty have died."

By information still more recent than the above despatches, it was learned that the Rev. Benjamin Rush Skinner died on board the Liberia, on his return to the United States, on the first of March, 1831; and that Dr. Humphries, the colonial physician, died at Monrovia, of a pulmonary affection, on the 22d of February. Some more deaths of the emigrants by the Carolinian, had occurred; but none of those who came out in the Volador. The health of Dr. Mechlin was improving, and Dr. Todsen was well.

In a letter from Dr. Mechlin to Elliott Cresson, Esq., there is some information not so fully contained in his former communications. This letter bears date February 21, 1832.

"The prospects of the colony were never brighter than at present. Tne improvements in agriculture, commerce, and buildings, during my short visit to the United States, have been astonishingly great, and far exceeded my most sanguine expectations; and should nothing intervene to interrupt our present advancement, our little town will ere long, be one of the most desirable places of resort on the western coast of Africa. I have been informed, by a captain, from the leeward, that there is, at present, much more business done at this place than at any of the old European settlements on the Gold Coast.

"We have, at present, among our recaptured Africans, many who, on their arrival here, were scarcely a remove, in point of civilization, from the native tribes around us, but who, at present, are as pious and devoted servants of Christ, as you will meet in any community: and by their walk and conversation,

afford an example worthy of imitation. They have a house for public worship, and Sunday-schools established, which are well attended; and their church is regularly supplied every Sunday from among our own clergy. These people I consider as forming an admirable medium of communication, or link, between the savage natives and civilized colonists from the United States, and will, I have no doubt, prove a powerful means of spreading the light of Christianity and civilization over this benighted country.

"As to the morals of the colonists, I consider them much better than those of the United States: that is, you may take an equal number of the inhabitants from any section of the Union, and you will find more drunkards, more profane swearers, Sabbath-breakers, &c., than in Liberia. Indeed, I know no country where things are conducted more quietly and orderly than in this colony. You rarely hear an oath, and as to riots or breaches of the peace, I recollect of but one instance, and that of a trifling nature, since I assumed the government of the colony. The Sabbath is more strictly observed than I ever saw it in the United States. Our Sunday-schools are well attended, not only by the children of the colonists, but also by the native children who reside among us."

The legislature of Maryland had already, with most of her sister States, expressed her approbation of the objects of the Colonization Society; but, this year, Mr. Brawner brought into the House of Representatives a set of resolutions, which contemplated something further than the mere expression of opinion. They were as follows,

"*Resolved*, That the increased proportion of the free people of colour in this State, to the white population, the evils growing out of their connexion and unrestrained association with the slaves, their manner of obtaining a subsistence, and their withdrawing a large portion of employment from the labouring class of the white population, are subjects of momentous and grave consideration to the good people of this State.

"*Resolved*, That as philanthropists and lovers of freedom, we deplore the existence of slavery among us, and would use our utmost exertions to ameliorate its condition; yet we consider the unrestricted power of manumission as fraught with ultimate evils of a more dangerous tendency than the circumstances of slavery alone; and that any act, having for its object the mitiga-

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