is the more unsuspected, because Captain Kennedy acknowledges, that he had imbibed prejudices against the colonization enterprise. On this account, "I sought out," says he, "the most shrewd and intelligent of the colonists, many of whom were personally known to me, and by long and wary conversations, endeavoured to elicit from them, any dissatisfaction with their condition (if such existed) or any latent design to return to their native country—neither of these did I observe: on the contrary, I thought I could perceive, that they thought they had started into a new existence—that disencumbered of the mortifying relations in which they formerly stood in society, they felt themselves proud in their attitude, and seemed conscious, that while they were the founders of a new empire, they were prosecuting the noble purpose of regenerating the land of their fathers.

"I was pleased to observe, that they were impressed with the vast importance of a proper education, not only of their own children, but the children of the natives, and that to this they looked, confidently, as the means of their high object, namely the civilization of their benighted brethren of Africa.

"I observed, with great satisfaction, that their children in many instances could converse in the languages of the tribes by which the colony is surrounded. Most of the articles of commerce which can be profitably used in barter with the natives are familiar to your readers; but there are yet some which have not employed the enterprise of our citizens.

"In the article of salt, more especially, a most advantageous traffic is conducted, and yet susceptible of great increase. In bartering with that article, the colonists readily receive gold dust, ivory, dye-wood, &c., at the rate of two dollars per quart. It is matter of astonishment that our enterprising citizens have not sought, in that particular article, a channel for the most profitable speculation. An extent of eight or ten leagues south of the cape is well adapted for the making of salt by evaporation, with comparatively little labour. Indeed the isle of Mayo, (one of the Cape de Verde islands,) only eight or nine days sail from Mesurado, would furnish abundance of salt for the purposes of the colony at a low price. I would recommend for the better prosecution of this traffic that the salt be imported in iron pots and kettles of various sizes, as they could be disposed of at a very great price.

"It gives me pleasure to state, that the colonists are turning their attention to the cultivation of coffee. That this article of produce is to prove a vast source of wealth to the colonists, there can be no doubt. The labour and expense of its cultivation will be comparatively small: indeed, they have but to clear away the forest trees, and the plantations are ready to their hands. There are two descriptions of the plant indigenous; one a shrub, evidently the same as the Mocha, but yielding a berry of superior flavour; the other, a tree, frequently attaining the height of forty feet. A specimen of the latter I brought with me to Cuba, in the Java, and left it with Mr. Shaler, our consul.

The August number of the Repository for 1831, is nearly filled with the learned, profound, and comprehensive speech of Mr. (now Rev.) R. J. Breckinridge, delivered before the Colonization Society of Kentucky, at Frankfort. This speech, while it embraces, and clearly exhibits the great leading principles by which hereditary slavery is condemned, and should as soon as possible be removed from society; yet is too indiscriminate in denouncing the present holders of slaves, as though they had it in their power at once to relieve themselves from this curse, which they have inherited from their forefathers. Whatever may be said of slavery in the abstract, no man is morally bound to liberate his slaves, unless in his conscience, he is convinced, that he can place them in a better situation. Again, liberty is a blessing which requires certain qualifications in the subject, without which it is no blessing, but may be the very reverse. Liberty, therefore, should not be granted to those who are incapable of making a good use of it. On this principle, children, minors, idiots, and the insane, are better without liberty than with it; and adults may be in such a state of ignorance and moral degradation, that their condition, as domestic slaves, is far better for them than unrestrained liberty. They are incapable of self government, and of providing for their own safety and subsistence. Until such persons are prepared for liberty by a suitable education, there is no moral obligation on any one to bestow liberty upon them. But if they are in our power, we are under obligations to do all we can to improve their condition. And when freedom is granted to such as have been long in bondage, it should be granted not suddenly, but gradually. The attention and exer-

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846