of fitting out this vessel, and providing for the emigrants, has, by his zeal, energy, and diligence, laid the society under lasting obligations for his services.

Captain A. H. Weaver, ex-commander of the brig Henry Eckford, having spent a few weeks in the colony, and having, on his return, met with Captain Waters, from Salem, mentioned the unusual mortality which had occurred among the emigrants, who had sailed in the Carolinian. This report was noised abroad to the injury of the colony; he, therefore, published a letter, in which he gives his opinion, not only of the climate of Liberia, but of the general condition of the colony. And as it is our object to exhibit the views of intelligent and impartial men on this subject, a few extracts from this letter will here be given. "Nature seems to have ordained, that on a removal from a temperate clime to the torrid zone of Africa, in order to be acclimated, it is necessary, in most cases, to pass through the ordeal of fever." "It is, I believe, a true assertion, that the natives of that part of the coast are uncommonly healthy—*so are the acclimated emigrants.* In future, when emigrants are sent there, from the interior of the country, I would earnestly recommend, that the detention on the sea-board, and at the mouth of the St. Paul's and Mesurado rivers, should be as short as possible. By transferring them measurably beyond the atmosphere of the mangrove swamps at the mouth of these rivers, I have no doubt their health will be protected in the ratio that the change of situation is diminished.

"The charge of unhealthiness against Liberia, for the coloured races, cannot be supported—it is the birth-place of the black man, to which his constitution is peculiarly adapted; and though estranged for a time from his native clime, nature will undoubtedly triumphantly resume her sway, whenever he returns to the land of his fathers. Africa is the black man's home, physically. Morally he should aspire for a residence within her boundaries.

"If our government will deign to foster that colony, a very short time will suffice to render it of great importance in a commercial point of view, independent of home considerations. Large quantities of our domestic cotton goods are already consumed on the coast, and England may, in a few years, be driven from the competition, as she has been from the Cape de Verde Islands, solely from our fabrics being cheaper and more serviceable. There are millions to be clothed in Africa, and they have already learned to discriminate between the intrinsic value of the coarse productions of the British and American looms. In the tobacco trade we can have no rivals. The north and the south are deeply interested in the success of our sable colony. The north will find a mart for her surplus manufactures, and the south a home and refuge for a portion of its population, which every good citizen must wish to see speedily transferred thither—I mean the free people of colour of the United States. The cost of transportation is by many persons of intelligence deemed an insurmountable barrier. Avarice—the avarice of England, brought them here. Shall we make the painful admission, that that vice so far exceeds the combined virtues of a Christian community, as to render its deeds irrevocable? No sir; it is in the power of the American people, with a due understanding of the case, and of the magnitude of the object, to effect much by a simultaneous movement. The abolition of slavery is not supposed. I am fully aware of its present impracticability. But allow me to make a single calculation as to the feasibility of removing the free coloured population of the twenty-four States, from this country to Liberia. That population I will assume at three hundred thousand souls, requiring six hundred ships to transport them, men, women, and children. Six thousand dollars is the sum for which a ship competent to the voyage can be chartered. Thus we have a sum of three million six hundred thousand dollars; an amount of money requisite to disburden ourselves, and found an empire in Africa. After the payment of the national debt, to what more hallowed purpose, and more to the glory of the United States could a surplus revenue be applied? Could that object be effected, gradual emancipation would probably follow, in the states of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, upon condition of transplantation in Africa. Each state, I have shown, is interested in the successful colonization of Liberia."

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846