to aid in defending the coast from pirates, and putting down the slave-trade, "I regret that its power to grant pecuniary aid is not equally free from question. On this subject, I have always thought, and still think, that the proposition made by Mr. King, in the Senate, is the most unexceptionable, and the most effective that can be devised. The fund would probably operate as rapidly as would be desirable, when we take into view the other resources which might come in aid of it; and its application would be, perhaps, less exposed to those constitutional objections which are made in the South, than the application of money drawn from the treasury, and raised by taxes. The lands are the property of the United States, and have heretofore been disposed of, by the government, under the idea of absolute ownership. The cessions of the several States conveyed them to the general government, for the common benefit, without prescribing any limits to the judgment of congress, or any rule, by which that judgment shall be exercised. The removal of our coloured population, is, I think, a common object, by no means confined to the slave States, although they are more immediately interested in it. The whole union would be strengthened by it, and relieved from a danger whose extent can scarcely be estimated."

Among the distinguished men who attended this meeting and took part in its proceedings, were the Hon. Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, Hon. Mr. Archer, of Virginia, Hon. Mr. Marshall, of Kentucky, Rev. Leonard Bacon, and Rev. D. Fitch, of New Haven, the Hon. Mr. Bates, of Massachusetts, and the Hon. Mr. Vance, of Ohio.

The thanks of the society were voted to J. H. McClure, Esq., for his munificent donation of ten thousand dollars.

The most encouraging intelligence was received from Liberia up to the date of December, 1831, by the brig Criterion. The emigrants who went out in that vessel, after a tedious passage, arrived in safety, having experienced no mortality from the effects of the climate. The Liberia Herald, received by this arrival, gave a very flattering account of the increasing trade and enterprise of the settlers. After mentioning the valuable products of Grand Bassa, the Herald observes:

"The beach is lined with Liberians of all ages, from twelve to fifty years, eager in the pursuit of traffic, and in the acquisition of cam-wood; and it is astonishing what little time is

necessary to qualify, even the youngest, to drive as hard a bargain as any roving merchant from the land of steady habits, with his assortment of tin-ware, nutmegs, books, or dry goods."

Captain Abels, a pious and sensible man, who went out in charge of the colonial brig Margaret Mercer, having returned to Washington, gave his views of the colony in the following interesting letter:

"WASHINGTON, *February* 10, 1832.

"*Dear Sir:* Having just arrived in the United States from the colony of Liberia, to which place I went as master of the schooner Margaret Mercer, and where I remained thirteen days, during which time I was daily on shore, and carefully observed the state of affairs, and inquired into the condition of the people, I venture to state some facts in regard to the circumstances and prospects of the colony. On the 14th December I arrived, and on the 15th went on shore, and was received in the most polite and friendly manner by the governor, Dr. Mechlin, who introduced me to the ministers and principal inhabitants. All the colonists appeared to be in good health. All my expectations in regard to the aspect of things, the health, harmony, order, contentment, industry, and general prosperity of the settlers, were more than realized. There are about two hundred buildings in the town of Monrovia, extending along the Cape Mesurado, not far from a mile and a quarter. Most of these are good substantial houses and stores, (the first story of many of them being of stone,) and some of them handsome, spacious, painted, and with Venitian blinds. Nothing struck me as more remarkable than the great superiority, in intelligence, manners, conversation, dress, and general appearance in every respect, of the people over their coloured brethren in America. So much was I pleased with what I saw, that I observed to the people, should I make a true report, it would hardly be credited in the United States. Among all that I conversed with, *I did not find a discontented person,* or hear one express a desire to return to America. I saw no intemperance, nor did I hear a profane word uttered by any one. Being a minister of the gospel, on Christmas day I preached both in the Methodist and Baptist church, to full and attentive congregations of from three to four hundred persons in each. I know of no place where the Sabbath appears to be more respected than in Monrovia. I was glad to see that the colonial agent or governor is a

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