colonial agent, which, although it repeats some events already mentioned, is inserted entire.

"LIBERIA, *May 1st*, 1832.

"GENTLEMEN:—In reviewing the events of the past year, we have every reason to be grateful for the many signal and providential favours which our colony has experienced. No period since its first establishment, presents us with more abundant proofs of its substantial and increasing prosperity; and at no period have we had more cause to offer up our sincere and grateful acknowledgments to that Divine Being, whose goodness has been so bounteously extended to this rising community.

"Health—that greatest of blessings—has never been more universally enjoyed. The disease of the climate, so much dreaded by strangers, and to the ravages of which so many have fallen victims, has, by the unremitted and undivided attention of the colonial physicians, been, in a great measure, deprived of its terrors, and made to yield to the well-directed efforts of professional skill. The average number of deaths that have occurred among the emigrants who have arrived since the first of January, 1831, will not exceed four per cent.—a result not only gratifying, but unprecedented in the annals of the colony, and which cannot but reflect the highest credit on the professional attainments of those entrusted with their medical superintendence.

"Our agriculture, the vigorous and successful prosecution of which is of such vital importance, and on which the prosperity of this colony must ultimately depend, has received a new impulse, and is no longer considered of secondary importance; the people seem now to be duly sensible of the necessity of devoting their energies to the advancement of this branch of industry, and our settlements present every where the cheering evidence of laudable enterprise and durable improvement. Most of the emigrants who arrived in the few last expeditions, have already the promise of their labours being rewarded by abundant crops. You will also be gratified to learn, that several of our most respectable citizens have turned their attention to the cultivation of coffee, a plant indigenous to the country, and which is every where to be met with near the sea coast, growing in the richest luxuriance. The Rev. C. M. Waring expects to have a plantation of twenty thousand trees shortly completed; and there is every reason to believe, that the influence of

so laudable an example will be widely diffused. Cotton and indigo are also the spontaneous productions of our soil, and will, when the efforts of those possessed of a little capital shall have been directed to their cultivation, prove valuable articles for exportation, and yield to the agriculturist the highest reward for his labours. But unless our people entertain more enlarged and liberal views, I fear they will not, at least for some time, avail themselves of these advantages; at present, few of those possessed of capital are willing to embark in any enterprise from which they do not expect to reap great and immediate profits; nor can they be made to understand that by thus investing a portion of their funds (now wholly devoted to the purposes of trade), they cannot fail of being amply recompensed, and eventually open to themselves great and never failing sources of gain. I have, however, great hopes the experiments now making will convince the people that they have within themselves the means of acquiring wealth, and will induce them, by a judicious employment of their time and money, more fully to develope the resources of the country, and render themselves independent of foreign aid. Articles, important in a commercial point of view, are produced in abundance, at no great distance from this settlement; but for want of sufficient enterprise and capital to facilitate their transportation to the sea coast, they must, at least for some time, remain without our being able to avail ourselves of the advantages afforded by their proximity.

"The commerce of the colony has also partaken of the general improvement, and surpassed that of the preceding year. Within this period, fifty-nine vessels have visited our port for the purposes of traffic; of these, thirty-two were American, twenty-five English, and two French. Our exports amounted to one hundred and twenty-five thousand five hundred and forty-nine dollars and sixteen cents, and the amount of produce and merchandize on hand, on the 1st of January, 1832, was forty-seven thousand four hundred dollars. The articles of export consisted chiefly of camwood, ivory, palm-oil, tortoise shell, and some gold, procured of the natives of the interior, and at various places along the coast. The trade with the interior has also been proportionably increased, and our town is now becoming a place of resort for natives from the Condo country, and countries beyond, bordering on Foota Jallou. The Mandingoes

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