also visit us in considerable numbers, and are the means of making us known to the nations of the interior.

"By the provisions of a treaty lately concluded with the kings and chiefs of the Dey tribe, still greater facilities will be afforded to this branch of commerce; it being expressly stipulated in that treaty, that the natives of the interior, resorting to the colony for the purposes of trade, should be allowed a free passage through their territory. From this privilege they were, in a great measure, heretofore debarred, as the natives of the Dey country, with a view wholly to monopolize the trade, either refused them a passage through their country, or charged them such enormous duties, that few could venture to visit us.

"It is a source of great gratification to be enabled to state, that the condition of our public schools is highly promising; the report for the third and fourth quarters of the past year will afford satisfactory evidence of the efficiency of our present school regulations; and there only remains towards their completion, that some provision should be made for the education of our recaptured Africans. These have been urgent in their request for the establishment of a free school at their settlement, and a want of funds has alone prevented me from acceding to their demand. Such an institution would, I am convinced, be productive of the most beneficial results; the manners and habits of those, at present in a semi-barbarous state, would be more assimilated to our own; sources of jealousy and prejudice would be removed, and the civilization of the neighbouring tribes, connected as they are by similarity of language and habits, with many of these people, would be rendered of comparatively easy attainment. I would therefore beg leave to invite your early attention to this subject, and trust you will be enabled to obtain funds sufficient to accomplish so desirable an object.

"Our relations with the surrounding native tribes have, with one exception, continued to be of the most amicable kind. The great and increasing intercourse between the colony and the different nations bordering on our territory, the earnest desire manifested on our part to render such intercourse mutually beneficial, by preserving a uniform course of justice towards them, and aiding in all the improvements calculated to exalt their condition, and impart to them the blessings of civilization, has done much towards the removal of all unfriendly prejudice,

and bound them more closely to us by the ties of interest, and will, doubtless, by preventing the recurrence of causes of irritation, ensure their perfect and permanent tranquillity.

"In the latter part of January last, availing myself of a season of comparative leisure, I visited Grand Bassa, convened the chiefs, and made such arrangements with them as will secure to us the peaceable possession of a considerable portion of that fertile district. Negotiations were also entered into with the Kings at Grand Cape Mount, resulting in the cession to us of a part of that country, the possession of which has been deemed by my predecessors in office, of such vital importance.

"The advantages to be derived from the settlement of these two points, have been stated in a former communication, and need not be repeated; but I will merely remark, that in point of salubrity, commercial and agricultural advantages, they are not surpassed by any on the whole western coast, being of easy access from the sea, abounding in articles of trade and subsistence, and possessing a soil, the fertility of which promises the richest rewards to the labour of the husbandman. We have every reason to congratulate ourselves on so valuable an acquisition to our territorial limits.

"In the management of the fiscal concerns of the agency, the most rigid economy, consistent with the welfare of the colony, has been observed; yet owing to the unusual number of emigrants who have arrived, the necessity of providing for their comfortable accommodation, the expenses consequent on the negotiations with the windward and leeward tribes, as well as those incident to the completion of such preliminary measures as were necessary to our occupying our newly acquired territory, the expenditures of the past will exceed those of any preceding year; nor can we indulge any reasonable hope that they will, in future, undergo any diminution: on the contrary, the great influx of emigrants, which the late energetic measures of the states of Virginia and Maryland will, in all probability, occasion, the expense necessarily incident to our keeping up separate establishments at Cape Mount and Grand Bassa, as well as the expenses consequent upon the enlargement of our territorial limits, and increase of population, will swell the disbursements of the present, and proportionally increase those of each succeeding year.

"The negotiations with the windward and leeward tribes for

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