the enlargement of our territory, the late war with the Dey people, and the increasing current business of the agency, occasioned by the large accessions of emigrants we have received within these few months past, have so multiplied my duties, that I could not, possibly, without neglecting business of pressing importance, make the surveys of the neighbouring country, or institute the inquiries and examinations necessary to enable me to comply with the wishes of the Board, as expressed in the resolution of the 14th March, 1831. During my journey to Grand Bassa, I managed to ascertain the course and size of the principal branches of the Junk and St. John's rivers, and at the same time noted the quality of the soil, elevation, &c., of the different sections of country through which I travelled, and trust, at some future period, to be able to furnish you with a map of the colony more accurate than the one you now possess, and likewise give such information respecting its topography as will be useful and interesting.

"I have the honour to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. MECHLIN, JR."

In a more recent communication, from the same person, dated July 13, 1832, information is given of the arrival of the Jupiter, with the emigrants, most of whom were sent immediately to Caldwell, where they would undergo their seasoning, and where their lands would be allotted to them. In this letter he says: "The agriculture of the colony is more promising than ever. Many of the emigrants, who have arrived within these five months past, have made great improvements, and have the prospect of abundant crops. The mechanics have generally preferred residing in town, and, accordingly, have had their building lots assigned them." With respect to the farmers, he had so far changed the plan of treating them, as to assign them their farms as soon as they arrived, even before they were acclimated; which he supposed would, in several respects, answer a good purpose, especially in preventing habits of idleness. He mentions a visit paid to the recaptured Africans, and was much pleased with their settlement. The occasion of this visit was, that both the Eboes and Congoes had several times attempted to choose a chief without success: the minority refusing to submit to the choice of the majority. Dr. Mechlin presided at the election, and explained to their people the reasonableness and necessity of acquiescing in the will of the majority, after which they appeared to be perfectly satisfied.

"These people," says he, "occupy two very neat and well built villages, near the east bank of Stockton creek, and distant from Caldwell about three miles. A small rivulet separates the Ebo from the Congo village. Each tribe have built, by voluntary subscription, and joint labour, a house of worship, and a town or palaver-house. Their gardens are well inclosed; in which are successfully cultivated, beans, cabbages, melons, yams, &c. These they dispose of at the Cape, in exchange for such articles as their necessities require. Adjacent to the village, but separated from it by a strong fence, are their farms, at present in a high state of cultivation. I saw one tract of a hundred and fifty acres planted in cassada, interspersed with patches of Indian corn and sweet potatoes. Their vegetables appeared to be very thriving, and will, without doubt, yield abundant crops. These people are decidedly the most contented and independent of any in the colony, and are rapidly improving in intelligence and respectability. They not only raise sufficient for their own consumption, but have considerable surplus produce, for which they find a ready market. When not employed in the cultivation of their farms, they turn their attention to the sawing of timber and making shingles. Many of the Congo tribe can read, and have established a Sunday-school, which is regularly attended by both children and adults; those who have received any education officiating as teachers to the others not possessed of that advantage. These, as well as the Eboes, are very desirous that a school shall be established among them."

Two men, Messrs. Simpson and Moore, were sent out to visit the colony, by the free people of colour of Natchez, and to bring them a faithful report of the country. This was a truly judicious course to obtain satisfaction, and if pursued by others, we have no doubt it would tend to dissipate many unfounded prejudices. These men remained but a short time, yet they made a good use of their time, and visited with care the upper settlements, and collected such information as would be satisfactory to their friends at home. They appeared to be much pleased with the colony; and returned home in the ship Jupiter. In a card published in New York, after their return, they use the following language: "During a residence of nearly three weeks

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