Liberia; but towards the close of this year, 1832, we meet with a lamentable exception. In the brig America, one hundred and twenty-eight emigrants arrived at Monrovia, under the care of Captain Abels. Of these the colonial agent speaks in the following terms: "With respect to the character of the people composing the expedition, I regret to be compelled to state, that with the exception of those from Washington city, the family of Pages from Virginia, and a few others, they are the lowest and most abandoned of their class. From such materials it is vain to expect that an industrious, intelligent, and enterprising community can possibly be formed. The thing is utterly impracticable, and they cannot but retard, instead of advancing the prosperity of the colony. Captain Abels who brought them out, can and will give you a more detailed and accurate account of their moral character, than I can possibly do, as they have been but a short time under my immediate notice."

In the same despatch, the agent gives the following account of the colony, "I am happy to have it in my power to state, that the condition of our public schools is highly prosperous. The settlement of Grand Bassa is in progress, and should nothing untoward intervene, will be in full operation as soon as the rains have ceased. From the last advices from Mr. Weaver, who is there superintending the erection of buildings, I learned, that every thing will be ready for the reception of settlers in five or six weeks. He, moreover, stated that the principal men of the country were very friendly, and the few who manifested a disposition to prevent our occupying the country, from their being specially interested in the slav etrade, finding they could not intimidate us by threats, have ceased all opposition. The health of the colony is good, and most of those who arrived in the ship Jupiter have gone through their seasoning, but with very few deaths."

About this time, a letter was published in the Liberator, a paper edited by William Lloyd Garrison, giving a very unfavourable account of the colony, and particularly contradicting some of the statements made to a committee of Congress by Mr. Devany, of which an account was given in its proper place. The agent seemed to think that the letter was a sheer fabrication; as there were no persons in the colony whom he could suspect of penning a statement so utterly unfounded in fact as this letter contained. Mr. Devany, however, judged it proper

to answer these false statements, so far as they affected the answers which he had given to questions put to him at Washington. He says: "If such a letter was written, it must have been by one of the most lawless of our citizens—and a friend only to lies and disturbance. But a citizen he was not, nor a person acquainted with the colony; for in his own letter he stated, that he had not fulfilled those obligations which constitute one a citizen of Liberia. And it is only from such abandoned wretches, that Mr. Garrison appears to obtain his information to prejudice the good and orderly coloured people in the United States, against our colony. And I am sure they ought to be aware of it. I am not a prophet, but I feel no doubt in saying, that Mr. Garrison is the greatest enemy that the coloured people have, for he is only preparing a net for their destruction," &c.

In presenting to our readers the true condition of the colony, dependence has not been implicitly placed on the accounts of the agents, or colonists; but the opinion of intelligent, impartial visiters has been resorted to. Accounts of this kind have already been given from a number of commanders of vessels, to which will now be added an extract from a letter of Captain Crowell addressed to Mr. Gurley, the corresponding secretary of the society.

"During my stay, I was daily on shore; and although I did not visit the interior towns, yet I was assured by Dr. Hall and others, that they were even more flourishing than Monrovia; which, to say the least, far exceeded my most sanguine expectations. And I would here remark, that the natural situation of the colony, has a very striking contrast, in my opinion, with that of our forefathers, who landed on Plymouth Rock, inasmuch as the latter had the rigours of the long and tedious New England winters to combat, together with numerous hordes of hostile savages; and far beyond the reach of any friendly power to alleviate their sufferings. Yet what blessings are the many millions of us now enjoying, as the fruit of their patient perseverance! The Liberian colonist, on the contrary, has a climate uniformly warm, but by no means so hot or uncomfortable as I was led to suppose, from the geographical situation of the country; the thermometer rising no higher than 83° during my stay; and with a very few exceptions, I am inclined to believe that the natives are very well pleased with the increasing growth

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