from Liberia, he says: "I see here many who left the United States in very straitened circumstances, living with all the comforts of life around them; enjoying a respectable and useful station in society, and wondering that their brethren in the United States, who have it in their power, do not flee to this asylum of happiness and liberty. I am certain, no friend to humanity can come here and see the state of things, without being impressed with the immense benefits the society is conferring on the long neglected sons of Africa.

"Nothing, rest assured, but the want of a proper knowledge of Liberia, prevents thousands of honest, industrious blacks, from rushing to this land, where liberty and religion, with all their blessings, are enjoyed."

Lieutenant Page, commander of the United States schooner Boxer, which was ordered to the African coast for the suppression of piracy, and who touched at Liberia, in April, 1833, in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, says: "With all the advantages that have been enumerated, it would be natural to expect to hear, that the inhabitants are generally contented; which, as far as my observation has gone, I find to be the case. There have been some exceptions, but they are found amongst characters who would be dissatisfied in any situation."

The fourth of July collections were this year considerably increased above those of the past year; and some valuable legacies were left to the society. Of this kind, especially, was that of Judge Workman, of Louisiana, of ten thousand dollars. A thousand dollars were received from the late venerable Colonel Rutgers, of New York, one of the vice-presidents of the society.

The Report, from which we have made so large extracts, concludes with the following weighty considerations:

"The managers will offer in vindication of the society, on this occasion, only the following facts:

"1st. The society was founded by the patriotic, the benevolent, and pious; and from the great community of these, throughout this Union, has it mainly derived support.

"2d. The free people of colour who have sought its aid, and emigrated under its direction to Liberia, have, according to their own testimony, and the testimony of others, greatly improved their condition and character.

"3d. Through its moral influence, numerous slaves have been

manumitted; and through its agency settled, in freedom and prosperity, in Liberia; while many others are now ready to be consigned to its care.

"4th. No one has shown, or can show, that the public have experienced detriment from the plans and proceedings of this society.

"5th. The native Africans in the vicinity of the colony, are, in their own judgment, greatly benefitted by its establishment; and disinterested strangers, who have visited them, concur in their opinion.

"6th. The practicability of the plan of African colonization, on a scale of vast utility, has been demonstrated, and means exist, all admit, for immensely enlarging its results.

"Facts like these can be set aside by no ingenuity of speculation or of argument; they place the character of this institution on grounds inaccessible to the boldest assailant, commanding a favourable verdict of the understanding, even where they fail to win the heart.

"Difference of opinion may and does exist, in regard to the extent in future, of African colonization. Its utility, so far as it may be prosecuted, is not dependent on the conclusions, however various, formed on this subject. Omitting argument to sustain, the managers would simply avow, their opinion, that the moral and economical elements at work to promote it, and the influence to be relied on for augmenting their power, afford solid grounds for hope, if not for confidence, that it will be so extended as to confer invaluable blessings on at least some millions of our race; so extended, as in an age not distant, to be contemplated as among the greatest schemes ever devised for the good of mankind. The opinion here expressed, however, must, by reflection on the reasons for its foundation, become the general opinion of our countrymen, before the practicableness of the scheme to the extent just mentioned, can be realized.

"If to provide for and educate his children, be the duty of a parent, is it less clearly the duty of a nation to provide, as it may be able, for the relief and improvement of any unfortunate portion of its inhabitants, and, should uncontrollable circumstances, or the public good, forbid their elevation on the soil of such nation, to assist them in removing to a land (if such can be found) where they may enjoy the means of improvement,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846