The place selected for the new settlement was in a beautiful and healthy region, which had previously been the scene of a slave factory from which five hundred slaves had been monthly exported. During the last summer more than one hundred and fifty town lots had been cleared, and several houses erected for the accommodation of future emigrants. Several public buildings also were far advanced towards a completion. Not a death had yet occurred since the resettlement. "Our village, (says the agent) though so recently covered with a dense forest, presents a cheering picture of industry, neatness, and order. The well cultivated gardens, full of various vegetables, impart an idea of comfort and independence, while the broad smooth streets, shaded here and there by the palm, with its long feathery leaves, throw over the whole an air of picturesque beauty that is quite delightful. Generally, the emigrants are sober, peaceful, contented, and happy. Their number exceeds two hundred."

Whatever is said by a man having the conscientiousness and discretion of Thomas H. Buchanan, is entitled to the highest respect. Soon after his arrival at the colony, he thus writes:—"I find a state of things here altogether better than I had ever anticipated, even when trying to imagine the brightest side of the picture. But with my present imperfect ability to detect the errors of first impressions, I shall withhold the remarks which my feelings would prompt. I visited New Georgia, Cape Town, and Caldwell, on Tuesday last. With all these towns I was much pleased; but this term is too feeble entirely to convey the delightful emotions excited by the appearance of things in the two first named villages, which are the residence of the recaptured Africans. Imagine to yourself a level plain of some two or three hundred acres, laid off into square blocks, with streets intersecting each other at right angles, as smooth and clear as the best swept side-walk in Philadelphia, and lined with well planted hedges of cassada and plum; houses surrounded by gardens luxuriant with fruit and vegetables; a school house full of orderly children, neatly dressed and studiously engaged; and then say whether I was guilty of extravagance, in exclaiming, as I did after surveying this most lovely scene, that had the Colonization Society accomplished nothing more than had been done in the rescue from slavery and savage habits, of these three hundred happy people,



I should be well satisfied." Nearly all the inhabitants of New Georgia, were professors of religion—and their town was a pattern of industry and cleanliness to the whole colony. Intermarriages between them and the colonists were esteemed quite desirable on both sides, and frequently took place—while the marriage of a colonist with any one of the neighbouring tribes, was considered exceedingly disreputable, and subjected the individual to the contempt of his fellow colonists. The inhabitants of New Georgia this year petitioned the council to extend to them the full rights of a colonial establishment. "Again," Mr. Buchanan remarks, "Liberia far exceeds, in almost every respect, all that I had ever imagined of her. Nothing is wanted, I am persuaded, but a better system of agriculture, and the permanent establishment of schools, to bring the people of Liberia, at a very early day, to the very highest point of the scale of intellectual refinement and political consequence."

The labours of Dr. Skinner in the colony, notwithstanding all that had been done by his efficient predecessor, were exceedingly arduous and multiform. And in consequence of the addition of new labours at the re-establishment of Bassa Cove, and negotiations for new territory in the interior, his repeated exposures brought on an attack of fever, under which he was at length reduced so low as to be obliged to leave the colony and return to the United States. On his departure, the administration of the government devolved on A. D. Williams, the lieutenant-governor. This title, and that of governor, had, by order of the Board, superseded those of agent and vice-agent.

The wars among the natives, which continued with little interruption, subjected the colonists to great inconvenience. Natives under the protection of the colony, were sometimes seized and sold to the slave dealers, by whom every effort was made to set the natives against the colonists. Nearly all these wars grew out of the prohibition of the slave trade by the colonial authority. By the breaking up, this year, of the immense factory of the notorious Blanco, that trade was driven entirely from a vast extent of coast. "It is a fact," says the Liberia Herald, "known to all who have made any inquiries on the subject, that there is not a regular slaving establishment to the windward of Sierra Leone, nearer than the Rio Pongas; nor is there in the Rio Pongas, as far as we can learn, an established market for the avowed purpose. Vessels casually purchase

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