walks and grass plats; on the margin of the walks we have planted the cotton-tree and papaw. I have just returned from partaking in an agricultural dinner, not given by us of the government, but by the farmers. We had mutton, fish, and fowl, and a superfluity of vegetables. The table was set under some palm trees in Atlantic street; there were, I should judge, about fifty persons present. You need be under no apprehensions but that farming will go on. We mean to plant the coffee-tree throughout our farms.

"We have bought, of King Yellow Will, a large tract of beautiful upland. There are four native towns on it. King Yellow Will is, therefore, considered as allied to us by the neighbouring head-men and kings, who appear to be jealous of the honour and determined to share in it. They have sent me word that they would sell their lands."

"It is astonishing," says the late Governor Pinney, "to witness the influence of the colonies upon the natives. The natives look upon the colonists as a superior race of beings, because they possess a knowledge of social and political rights, and enjoy the blessings of a political community, reaping the reward of their own industry and enterprise. They seek to gain from them all the knowledge they can, placing themselves under the influence of their example whenever circumstances will permit them. There is, perhaps, as much difference between the colonists and the natives, in point of comparative intelligence, as there is between the whites and blacks in this country. Upwards of fourteen thousand natives, perfect savages ten years ago, have been brought under the subduing and benign influence of the colonies." But the influence of the colony operated not only upon the black man in its own neighbourhood. The remarkable case of the "Rio Expedition," though so lamentable in its issue, shows that the example of Liberia had begun to extend its influence even to far distant countries. Some time in the month of August, a company of two or three hundred blacks, living in and near Rio de Janeiro, who, by their industry and steady perseverance for years, had secured their freedom and acquired a considerable amount of property, chartered an English vessel to transport themselves and their effects to Liberia, which they had heard of and looked upon, as the only country in which they could hope to enjoy, and transmit to their children, their dearly purchased freedom.

This interesting company left the scene of their former degradation and suffering with high hopes, and with the good wishes of many friends, whose kind interest had been enlisted in their welfare. It is painful to think of the terrible disappointment of these interesting people. Their fate is involved in mystery. Nothing has been heard of them since their embarkation, and there is great reason to suspect that the captain and crew of the vessel betrayed them again into slavery.

Several new roads were this year laid out between the settlements, and into the interior. A weekly mail was established between Bassa Cove and Monrovia. The amount of revenue was thirty-five hundred dollars, and the amount of exports about eighty thousand dollars. The state of society continued to be orderly, and every where the authority of law was strictly regarded. The editor of the Liberia Herald, in a well written address to his patrons at the commencement of an editorial year, after lamenting the want of liveliness in the articles of his paper, and assigning, as one reason, the fact, that from pressure of business, he was compelled to do all his writing late at night, thus humorously introduces an additional reason, explaining the absence of piquancy and animation in his editorials: "Another most unfortunate circumstance, incident to our situation, is the sameness of events; the tameness with which things go on in their unbroken course. Here are no striking events with which to vary and enliven the dull and monotonous narration of ordinary life. No mobs, affording columns of matter in accounts of heads broken, houses rifled, magistrates resisted, laws defied, or any other of those brilliant events which generally mark the reign of mobocracy. To this degree of refinement, at least, the citizens of Liberia have not as yet arrived."

We shall close the history of the year 1837, with some extracts from the letters of the colonists and others, containing, as they do, the opinions and statements of eye witnesses, and those whose practice has been a faithful comment upon their belief.

We find at this date a letter of Mr. Samuel Benedict, a man of colour, who emigrated in 1835, from the state of Georgia. And it may not be improper to remark of him, that he was a man of superior mind. Without the advantages of education, he had risen, by the native force of his intellect, to a very considerable distinction as a scholar; by his industry, he had accu-

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XIV. Books

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A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846