influence over the natives. The population of Bassa Cove is about one hundred and fifty souls, occupying forty dwelling houses, effectually defended by well placed pieces of artillery. The good understanding with the natives had been occasionally interrupted by the influence of the slavers; but on the appearance of this ship all differences were settled by a treaty between Mr. Buchanan and the neighbouring Princes, or Headmen, obliging themselves to renounce the slave trade for ever, and to be obedient to the laws of the colony, as far as applicable to their condition. The colonists at Cape Palmas appear to have profited by the wars of the older colonists, in avoiding as yet all trade with the natives of the interior, and devoting their whole energies to agriculture. They have already in cultivation forty-seven farms, generally of five acres, on most of which the proprietors reside; and a model farm of fifty acres partly under cultivation. There are two native towns, of two thousand inhabitants, between Harper and the Farms, under the command of King Freeman; but the colonists appear to be on very good terms with all the kings and people of the neighbourhood, and I cannot refrain from expressing my agreeable surprise at the evidence of industry and foresight that was exhibited throughout the settlements. The ship was visited by King Freeman and King War; the latter is at the head of a powerful tribe in the interior. They were so much astonished at her size, that for want of language to convey their impressions to their friends, they measured her length and breadth with fishing lines. The only missionary establishment I had an opportunity of visiting was that of the Rev. Mr. Wilson, who has about one hundred of the native children of different towns under his charge, and a few adults. I was pleased at the correctness with which many of them read from English books; and as some of them are the sons of kings, and may be kings themselves in time, it is impossible to foresee the happy effect upon the civilization of the Africans, that may be produced by this school. The respective colonies being much in want of arms, ammunition, &c., for their defence, received from this ship in accordance with the instructions from the Department, all the aid that their circumstances seemed to require. I would further say, that the colonies have now taken firm root in the soil of Africa; and though they may be depressed at times by adversity, yet by the gradual development of their resources, and the judicious assistance

of their friends, they must finally flourish, to be an asylum to the coloured man, and an honour to their founders."

By an authentic document in the nature of a report rendered this year to the "Boston Union for the Relief and Improvement of the Coloured Race," we are enabled to run a statistical parallel between the people of the colony of Liberia, in Africa, and the free people of colour in the city of Boston, in America. In Liberia more than one in every four of the inhabitants are church-members; in Boston, less than one in every seven of the coloured people are church-members. In Liberia there are five hundred and eighty pledged members of temperance societies; in Boston there is not one, as appears from the tabular view. In Liberia every child of sufficient age of the families of the colonists, was at regular school. In Boston the proportion was so small and so uncertain as to be really not comparable. In Boston a primary school for coloured children had to be discontinued for want of scholars. In Liberia fifteen schools could not satisfy the people, clamorous for the education of themselves and their offspring. In Liberia the inhabitants support, both by their pecuniary and by their literary contributions, an ably conducted paper—they can not only generally read, but can generally write and compose in a correct and manly style, as our quotations therefrom abundantly testify. In Boston scarcely any of the adults were able to read, "and of children so reported some discount must be made." In Boston "a majority of all classes of them attend public worship very irregularly." In Liberia the people are a "peculiarly church-going people, nor could love or money influence any of them to labour on the Sabbath." The coloured population in Boston had decreased one hundred and eighteen within the last five years, and the proportion of unmarried persons was truly appalling, if the canons of political economy on this point be true, and we have the right thereby to infer the moral condition of the people. The additions to the census in Liberia, apart from emigration, have been more than sufficient to supply the losses by death, taking into account even the unusual early mortality by war and fever, and no tabular view of the population has ever yet indicated any thing but a healthy and harmonious state of society among them. If figures, therefore, are proper data upon which to form a conclusion, surely no candid mind could hesitate long to decide in the light of the above illustration, which state of things in

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846