talent, but a man of sincerity and truth. He gave a cheering account of the social and moral condition of the people. He averred over and over again, that he knew of no settlements in this country, and he had travelled extensively, so free from open vice and immorality, or which enjoyed superior moral and religious advantages. His heart had been affected with the amount of intemperance and profaneness everywhere exhibited through our villages, but he had never seen a drunken man in Liberia—not one; and a profane word was rarely heard. "The truth is," said he, "that men are dependent there upon their *moral character*." The popular sentiment is a more effectual restraint upon vicious character, than the statute book, and when emigrants come in, they soon find that it is disreputable to violate the rules of decency and order.

"There is one subject in reference to Africa," said Governor Matthias at a meeting in New York, "in which the people of this country have most erroneous ideas. I mean the climate. Many persons imagine that the thermometer always ranges much higher in Africa than in the United States, but such is not the fact. It is never higher than 86 or lower than 72, and tempered by a pleasant sea breeze, which so mitigates the heat, that with the thermometer at 86 the climate is delightful. Every one who possesses health, must enjoy life in Africa. Much had been said in relation to the unhealthiness of that portion of the country occupied by the colony. In answer to these objections he had brought with him a medical report of the mortality in Bassa Cove and Edina. From this report it appeared that from August 1837 to April 1838, the deaths did not average more than one per month, with the exception of the month of March, during which there were five deaths, three of which were of children only a year old. Amongst all the deaths which occurred during the period referred to, there was but one case of fever, and no case of a death occurring from disease peculiarly incident to the climate." Governor Matthias next adverted to the manners and behaviour of the colonists, and said that the first time he opened the court at Bassa Cove, he was utterly astonished at the perfect order and formality with which every thing was conducted by the coloured clerk, sheriff, and jury; and that when the trials were over, several of the audience approached him and congratulated him on his appointment, in a manner which would have

been creditable to any people, no matter what their colour or country. In relation to the religious habits of the colonists, he could say, that in no part of the world was the Sabbath more respected. It was not only respected by the colonists, but even the natives had learned to respect it."

A letter of Dr. Goheen, a very respectable and well educated physician, attached to the Methodist mission at Monrovia, exhibits the most satisfactory evidence of the good character, contentment, and improvement of the settlers, as wonderful as it must be gratifying to every humane and Christian heart. It was remarkable in the case of Dr. Goheen that he entirely escaped every touch of the acclimating fever. This was quite unprecedented in the history of any white man that ever remained for any length of time in the country. Mr. Seyes explains the fact, when he says, "that while we attribute his exemption from disease, primarily to the kind interposition of a gracious Providence, it would be injustice in me, and an injury to those who come after, to withhold the fact, that such is the extremely temperate and abstemious life of Dr. Goheen, *in all things;* such his lynx-eyed vigilance at every minutiæ which might invite disease, and his great self-denial in the use of what may be termed only the common comforts of life, that I wonder not 'the pestilence which walketh at noonday,' can find no spot in his system on which to rest even the sole of its foot." It may be well for white persons hereafter visiting Africa, to keep this in mind. We know that it was the same strictness of attention to diet to which the first missionaries to Cape Palmas attributed, under God, their health and preservation; and that they adopted such a regimen, not only after they had touched the shores of Africa, but by way of anticipation for a considerable period before they embarked from this country, and while on the passage.

Says Dr. Goheen: "It is a source of great pleasure to me to be able to inform you that all the colonies are in a prosperous condition. The vigorous exertions and anxious devotedness which characterize the efforts of the citizens to elevate and establish themselves permanently, in the possession of privileges, moral and political, almost amount to enthusiasm.

"The people are industrious and persevering in their attempts to gain a comfortable livelihood, temperate and economical in their habits, and appear to be really enjoying life.

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