"It is a mistaken idea, that among the colonists there are contentious and dissatisfied spirits, who long for the 'flesh pots of Egypt,' and desire to turn back and enjoy the 'proud man's contumely' in America. No, no; there are here no restless persons, nor any who would give up their possessions in Africa for any station, no matter however elevated, in the country where they cannot have equal rights, but must ever be looked upon as the dark and degraded sons of Ham. Many to whom I have put the question—would you prefer to return to America, and live bondmen as you have been? have replied in substance—no, sir, we would rather remain here, possessed of half the privileges and happiness that we now have, than go back and be reported freemen in any of the States.

"I have inquired diligently, and I have yet to find the first man who would leave Liberia for a residence in America, on any terms.

"This account you will find fully corroborated by the numerous letters written by the colonists, and sent to their afflicted brethren throughout the Union. I am aware that it is not credited by some; but if men are not themselves the best judges of their own enjoyments and feelings, and are not to be believed when they thus publicly testify of the blessings and comforts which they possess, I ask, what portion of this community is it that is better qualified to decide?"

Again, observes Dr. Goheen:

"It is utterly impossible for you to form a correct estimate of the amount of good that has resulted from the means thus far expended, unless you were here to observe with your own eyes the changes wrought. The man who was a slave in America is here a free citizen; the plebeian and the servant there, the lord of the soil here; there the degraded child of affliction, here the claimant and the occupant of the highest office in the gift of a free people. Here there are colonists of all professions and trades; governors, divines, lawyers, physicians, and mechanics. Here are those who possess wealth and live at ease; here the inhabitants enjoy all the comforts and luxuries of a soil the most fertile, well watered, and best timbered, that I have ever seen. And here permit me to ask, why do you colonization folks, in every address that you make, speak of the burning sands and barren shores of Africa? Because in the vast continent of Africa the Zahara desert is found? Where is the continent

that has no desert? Is there not a great desert within the territory of the United States? England, and other European nations, get all their ship-building and other timber from Africa. The coast from Senegambia, southward, presents an almost impregnable forest, which contains a much greater variety of trees than you have in the States, and also a sufficiency to supply the world for centuries. But, to return: there is here every possible inducement to prompt and stimulate the emigrant to action; a rich soil, a great variety of vegetables, and a ready market. The authorities of this town have recently established a market, which overflows with the products of the country. The comforts possessed by the farmers, mechanics, and merchants, far surpass the opinion that you would form of them, unless you could be present, to be received into houses splendidly furnished, and well provided with all the luxuries that are usually found in the possession of citizens of refined and populous towns.

"The moral and religious state of society, is very good; this is emphatically a church-going community. In this town we have a 'Moral Friendship Society,' a 'Union Sisters of Charity Society,' a 'Female Benevolent Society,' a 'Missionary Society,' a flourishing 'Temperance Society;' and to the above list, we have recently added a 'Liberia Lyceum.' The Lyceum is well attended, and promises to bestow much lasting good upon the citizens.

"From the above facts, it is evident, that your cause is a good one, and has been blessed and prospered by heaven's hand; it has found favour in the sight of God and man; it is fraught with considerations the most ennobling; it demands from every well-wisher of the human family his suffrage, and appeals directly for assistance to all Christian believers in the coming millennium."

Governor Russwurm, of Cape Palmas, concerning the new code of laws which had been with great care prepared for that colony, writes: "We are all much pleased with the new code of laws. The powers of the judges are well defined, and will save, among an ignorant community, much contention. I have not heard even a murmur against the code, though it strikes at the root of many preconceived opinions." He added: "The people are civil and orderly; no properly established law of the colony has ever met with open opposition; no violence has ever

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