been threatened to the lawful authorities. No instance of riot or general uncontrollable excitement has occurred, and no instance of open quarrelling or fisticuffs has come to my knowledge, directly or indirectly, since the first establishment of the colony."

The four settlements of Monrovia, Bassa Cove, Greenville, and Maryland, contained in all ten villages. The population had increased to five thousand, of which three thousand five hundred were emigrants from this country, and the remainder natives of Africa, mostly youth, who had come into the colonies to learn "'Merica fash," and make themselves "white men," by conforming to the habits of civilization, and becoming subject to their laws.

The commerce of the colony, though in its infancy, was already extensive. From eighty thousand to one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars was exported annually, in camwood, ivory, palm oil, and hides; and an equal or greater amount of the manufactures and productions of Europe and America, brought into the colonies in return. Monrovia had a considerable coasting trade by means of small vessels built and owned by her own citizens; not less than twelve or fifteen of these, averaging from ten to thirty tons burthen, manned and navigated by the colonists, being constantly engaged in a profitable trade along seven hundred miles of coast.

The harbour of Monrovia was seldom clear of foreign vessels; more than seventy of which, from the United States, England, France, Sweden, Portugal, and Denmark, annually touching there.

Of the Temperance Society, formed in 1834, more than one-fifth of the entire population had become members. At Bassa Cove, and Cape Palmas, the sale and use of ardent spirits were prohibited by law. In the other colonies, the ban of public opinion as effectually prohibited dram-drinking, so that no respectable person would indulge an appetite so disreputable.

The number of churches had increased to eighteen: Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Episcopalian. There were forty clergymen in the colonies, and all the churches not only regularly supplied with preaching, but religious meetings weekly held in the native villages.

Seven hundred of the colonists, or one-fifth of the whole population, were professed Christians, in good standing with

the several churches with which they stood connected. Sunday schools, and Bible classes, were established generally in the churches, into which, in many cases, the native children were gathered with those of the colonists.

There were ten week-day schools in all the settlements, supported generally by education and missionary societies. The teachers in most cases were coloured persons.

In some places, as at Bassa Cove, literary societies had been formed, on the plan of village lyceums in this country. With some were connected museums for the collection of natural curiosities.

At Bassa Cove and Monrovia there were public libraries for the use of the people. The one at the former place numbered about fifteen hundred volumes.

The colonies have a well organized and efficient militia. The officers and men exhibited a degree of enthusiasm in the performance of their duty seldom witnessed elsewhere; and on field-days their neat and orderly appearance, their thorough discipline, and the promptness and precision of their evolutions, commanded the admiration of observers, who had seen more famous soldiery. They had also a number of volunteer corps, regularly uniformed and equipped.

The government of the colony had now for a long time devolved upon Lieutenant-Governor Williams. With the efficiency of his labours the Board were fully satisfied; and they frequently renew the expression of their general satisfaction with the ability, prudence, and economy of his administration. He was ever a faithful and laborious man, and it was well for the general interests of the colony that the departure of the last Governor left its affairs in the hands of one, who by his experience and ability was so well qualified to superintend them. But it was the opinion of the Board that the time had not yet arrived when the interests, present and prospective, of the colony would permit it to remain permanently under the government of a colonist. We took notice in our last chapter of the arrangement entered into between the directors of the different colonial establishments on the coast, with the exception of that of the Maryland State Society, by which they agreed to form themselves into an united government under the general direction of the parent society, under the name and style of the "Commonwealth of Liberia." At a succeeding meeting of the Board

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