and delegates, this plan was consummated, and a temporary arrangement was also made with the Mississippi society, whereby their late colony was received into the commonwealth. Under the new arrangement a general Board of Directors was established and appointed, and Thomas Buchanan, Esq., was appointed Governor of the commonwealth. About the same time Mr. Buchanan received his commission from the United States government, as agent for the recaptured Africans in Liberia. He embarked on board the society's ship Saluda, which also carried out some emigrants to the colony from New York and Norfolk. He was provided by the society with a large quantity of trade goods, agricultural implements, a sugar mill, &c.; also, means of obtaining, at the Cape de Verd islands, a supply of working animals for the colony. Government at the same time ordered a vessel to the coast from which the colony was furnished with a much needed supply of arms, ammunition, cannon, naval boats, and stores.

CHAPTER XXXII.

COMMONWEALTH OF LIBERIA UNDER GOVERNOR BUCHANAN.

With the year 1839 commences a new era in the history of the American Colonization Society. The Board announced with confidence, that there never had been a time, in the history of colonization, when there was so much to encourage the friends of this noble enterprise. In every section of the country a new and efficient interest was awakened. An increased spirit and activity began to show itself in all directions. The demand for knowledge, in the public, was greater, and there was a larger number of agents in the field, than had been at any previous time. This demand was answered, especially, by the eloquent and indefatigable Gurley, in Ohio, and other parts of the West and South-west, and by the philanthropic Cresson in New England. These ancient and well-

tried friends to the cause, and to humanity, were again in the field, silencing the rage of malignants, stopping the mouths of gainsayers, and every where by their arguments and their eloquence multiplying new and stimulating the old friends, in the cause. The attention of commercial men began, also, to be aroused to the importance of the colonies in view of their inexhaustible resources of commercial profit. It was shown that although the British government had expended more than thirty millions of dollars on the Sierra Leone colony, they still thought themselves fully recompensed in securing the trade of middle Africa, that a very large amount of British shipping was already employed in it, that large quantities of British goods were carried into the interior by colonists and native merchants, the most valuable and portable articles of produce being received in return, consisting of ivory, gums, and gold dust. In addition to these articles, a very large coasting trade was carried on in cam-wood, palm oil, teak, and other wood for ship building, besides an unknown variety of the most beautiful and valuable woods for ornamental furniture. Mr. Elliott Cresson, examined before a committee of the House on the foreign slave trade, in February, 1839, stated in answer to the question, "What will be the commercial and political advantages to the United States, from an intercourse with the colony of Liberia?" "Among the valuable articles of export, wax and spices are obtained in large quantities. The India rubber tree grows wild in the neighbouring woods, and ostrich feathers have been exported largely. Hides could be obtained in any quantities; so could rose wood, lance wood, and palm wood, and live oak of the best quality. One merchant in Philadelphia last year imported from the colony a quantity of pea or ground nuts, from which he realized the profit of twelve thousand dollars. Cotton, of a very good staple, is found there, and cultivated with great advantage as there is no frost there. And the articles desired in return, are those produced by American manufactures and agriculture."

In view of the almost unlimited resources of trade as offered by the African continent, commercial men might find it very much to their advantage to consult the chapters in Sir T. F. Buxton's work on the African Slave Trade and its Remedy, and Kennedy's Report, Twenty-seventh Congress, on African colonization, slave trade, and commerce. "It is very possible,"

Maryland Historical Society

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846