wounded four in a dreadful manner, and carried twelve into slavery. The whole number, about twenty, would have been killed or captured, had not the people of Millsburg, providentially been alarmed by the reports of the guns, and gathered hastily to the rescue. As soon as the report of the alarm drum was heard, the marauders fled precipitately. An express was sent immediately to Governor Buchanan, informing him of this outrage, who immediately hastened to Millsburg; and as the people feared another attack from the dreaded Gatoomba, he took immediate measures to guard against it. The gun carriages were put in order, and an additional supply of small arms and ammunition were sent up, while the strictest watch was established in the environs of the town. Governor Buchanan, also, sent messengers to Gatoomba, with a letter demanding an explanation of his hostile conduct, and asking him to come to Millsburg and hold a palaver. To this message an insulting answer was received, and an intimation from the chief that he was prepared for war, and though he did not intend attacking the Americans, he would not allow them to interfere with him. Governor Buchanan was at Millsburg on the receipt of this reply, but he immediately returned home, assembled some of the principal officers of government, laid the matter before them, and stated his impressions, that Gatoomba, flushed with his recent success, would make a descent upon Millsburg, and that the only way to protect that place, as well as to vindicate the character and authority of the colony, was to anticipate him, and march without a moment's delay to attack him in his town. All the officers agreed with Governor Buchanan in this decision, but thought it better to send another message to him in hopes the difficulty would be accommodated without bloodshed. Without going farther into the detail of this negotiation, five messengers were sent to the town of Gatoomba, but as they approached the gate of his baracoon they were fired upon, and three of them were taken prisoners. In the mean time the Legislative Council assembled, and Governor Buchanan laid the whole matter before them, and a unanimous resolution was passed, approving of the course which had been adopted, and placing all the resources of the colony at his disposal.

Things remained in this state until the 8th of March, when suddenly Gatoomba burst upon Heddington, and would have

murdered all in the place, if they had not been in a measure prepared for it.

Governor Buchanan after the first assault had the precaution to send up to Heddington some muskets and a good supply of ball-cartridges, which were placed in the hands of the missionary, Mr. Brown, and at the moment of attack they were all loaded in his chamber. Two Americans from Caldwell, by the name of Demery and Harris, were fortunately living in Mr. Brown's family at the time.

On one side of the town was a large open field of cassadas, near which Mr. Brown's house stood. Here the attack was made about daylight, by some three or four hundred savages, led on in person by the cannibal Gotorah. As they marched through the cassadas, the whole field seemed darkened with them, and they set up a yell that made the whole forest resound. Demery and Harris quietly stepped out of the house and took their stand by the side of the picket fence, which surrounded the house, where with the most admirable coolness they awaited the terrible onset. The enemy came pressing on like a furious torrent, without order or caution, certain of glutting their fiendish passions in the blood of their victims; but when they had almost reached the fence their course was suddenly checked by the deadly discharge of Demery and Harris's muskets, which stretched several of the leading warriors on the ground. Before they could recover from their surprise, Brown opened upon them from an upper window, and for some minutes kept up a regular stream of fire upon the crowded and confused mass, which did great execution. Nor were his two brave associates idle after their first timely discharge. Scorning the protection of the house, they stood in the open yard, exposed to a perfect storm of slugs, spears, and arrows, and loaded and fired with great rapidity and precision. One of them happened to have a bag of buck-shot, which they poured into their muskets by handfuls, and the effect upon a crowd of human beings, at the distance of ten or fifteen yards, when every ball and shot must have told, may be imagined! Several times the savages gave ground under this tremendous fire, but as often returned with increased fury to the onset. At length, when the action had continued nearly an hour, and the little party at the house was almost exhausted and nearly destitute of ammunition, Gotorah made a desperate rush upon

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