Gonlat, have been engaged five years in continual war with each other—partly originating in a desire of conquest, and partly from avarice, which could only be satiated by making slaves. Their distance from the colony, for a long time, prevented any other interference of the colonial authorities than the occasional effort to become peace-makers. But in the course of the war, they gradually approached the territories of the colony, by robbing, and plundering, and carrying into slavery the defenceless inhabitants of the Dey country. Thousands of these have either been murdered, or carried away captive, and the small remnant have either fled into the colony of Liberia, or on to the banks of the St. Paul's next it, for safety and protection. Their cruel persecutors and conquerors took possession of this country, and thus became the neighbours of the colony. This occurred about one year ago, and the editor of the Liberia Herald, a coloured man, in a most able article written at that time, predicted the probability of a severe contest between them and the colony, which stood as the only bulwark between them and the weak remnant of the Deys, Queahs, and Bassas, upon whom they were ready to fall in a continuance of their conquest and warfare. In a few months, the impatience of one of their chiefs, Gatoomba, led him to venture an attack, not upon the colonists, but upon a small village of the poor Deys, who had settled in the outskirts of Millsburg. This attack was made without provocation and by surprise; it was made about daylight; it was made in the territories of the colony, and resulted in taking twelve captives, who were soon after sold into slavery, besides mortally wounding and maiming several others. The colonists in Millsburg hastened to the scene of murder and robbery as soon as possible, else the whole village might have been taken away. Governor Buchanan upon learning these facts, immediately sent a messenger to Gatoomba to demand the release of the captives, and reparation for the wrong done to the colony. The reply was one of insult and scorn. The governor was told that Gatoomba had a war to fight, and he wanted no colonial interference; and intimated an attack upon the natives of King Tom's Town, or Heddington, where the Methodist mission was then in successful operation under Mr. Brown, some of whom he claimed as runaway slaves.

"Upon receiving this reply, Governor Buchanan immediately sent arms and ammunition to Heddington and Millsburg—

called out the militia of Monrovia and Caldwell, and proceeded to Millsburg to build a fort. While there a council of war was called, and it was determined not to make an attack upon Gatoomba until another message of a peaceful character had been sent. Accordingly, two interesting young men were sent to this monster of cruelty, *and both were murdered in cold blood.* Governor Buchanan then, in hopes that the king, to whom Gatoomba owed allegiance, would interfere and punish, still put off the day of vengeance, until a messenger could go to Boporo, the capital of the Condo country, and ascertain his sentiments.

"Who, in view of these facts, will censure the colonists as having provoked a war? Who can fail to see that they have been a shield for the remnant of a murdered and innocent tribe? Who will say they ought to have refused the poor Dey people a shelter and a home, or, that having received them, they ought to have stood by passive, while these defenceless people were murdered and carried into captivity?"

Governor Buchanan, for the purpose of getting Gatoomba into his power, interdicted all trade between the colony and the country lying north of the St. Pauls, and a rigid embargo was kept up for nearly nine months. But this measure did not have the effect intended; for a universal law prevails among the natives, against betraying a headman into the power of an enemy; yet to save appearances, Gatoomba was driven from his town, and forced to skulk in the woods, without a house to shelter himself from the rains, or the means of subsistence, except what the palm trees and wild yams afforded him. To this wretched and vagabond condition was the powerful chief of Sooce reduced, in consequence of his attack upon the colony. When Governor Buchanan became convinced that he could not accomplish his object in this way, he took measures to have the embargo removed in such a way as to prevent suspicion that he had been defeated in his purpose. Accordingly, he compromised the affair, by demanding five bullocks as a reparation for the injury done to the colony, which the natives joyfully paid, and trade was again opened. Governor Buchanan found great difficulty in maintaining his position with regard to the embargo for such a length of time, as it was directly against the interests of the merchants, and most of the people of the country; but the result was favourable to the colony:

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XIV. Books

3.

A History of Colonization on the West Coast of Africa

by Archibald Alexander, Philadelphia, 1846