pleased with the gentlemanly deportment of Captain Bell and his officers, who seem in turn to be pleased and gratified at the improvement made in the colony. We wish them success in their enterprise, and do most sincerely hope they may be spared to return to their happy country, and the bosom of their families. We may consider the gun that announced this arrival, the knell of slavery on this part of the coast."

The Grampus, Captain Payne, arrived in the beginning of April. These vessels cruised off the coast, for the purpose of preventing the prosecution of the slave trade under American colours, which had been greatly complained of by the British squadron, and at the commencement of the rainy season they returned to the United States for supplies. From the report of the commanding officers, it appears that the slave trade is carried on principally under Portuguese colours, procuring their cargoes from slave stations on the coast, which are under the protection of native chiefs, who furnish slaves, and receive in return goods manufactured in England expressly for the purpose. And the officers express the opinion, that so long as these stations are permitted to exist, and this barter is carried on, all attempts to arrest this traffic will but aggravate the disease.

A war broke out this year in the neighbourhood of Bassa Cove, between Bob Grey and Joe Harris on one side, and the natives at New Cesters and the Fishmen of the Cove on the other. It appears that the two chiefs, Grey and Harris, were accused by the people of New Cesters of being inimical to the people of the country, because they sold land to the Americans, and countenanced the establishment of the settlement, thereby throwing obstacles in the way of the slave trade generally, and actually causing it to be broken up at Bassa Cove. This war was originated by a man named Theodore Canot, a Florentine by birth, but a naturalized citizen of the United States. He was the owner of the slave factories at New Cesters, and was afraid that they would be broken up by the people of the colony. Governor Buchanan upon hearing of the attack upon Grey and Harris sent a messenger to Prince, of New Cesters, demanding the reason of the attack. In his despatches to the Society he says, "No truth is more certain than that sooner or later we must fight the slavers or surrender the high principles on which we have planted ourselves. As long as they remain

not true

Never; T. Canot did not interfere in this war

in the neighbourhood, they will annoy and injure us through the medium of the savages, whom they possess such abundant means to influence. For my own part, I care not how soon the collision may come; it would be much less hazardous, and infinitely more agreeable to fight them, than to be exposed to these repeated conflicts in the outskirts of the colony with the natives."

About the middle of November, Captain Denman, of the British navy, landed in his boats at New Cesters, with about two hundred men, and took possession of the place. The Spaniards made no resistance, but fled into the woods; they took with them most of their slaves, amounting to two or three thousand, but left all of their other property, which was taken possession of and destroyed by the captors. In the month of December, Governor Buchanan received a letter from Lieutenant Seagram, commanding Her Britannic Majesty's brig Termagant, informing him that he had completed an arrangement with Canot, by which it was agreed that he should deliver up all his slaves to Seagram to be carried to Sierra Leone, and thenceforth to abandon the slave trade entirely. Another part of the agreement was that Canot should remain at New Cesters, and carry on business as a regular trader under the sanction and protection of the English government. In regard to this agreement Governor Buchanan says, "If Seagram made this agreement by authority, it would seem that his government intends occupying that place. This would be a dismembering of our territory, by cutting off our Northern settlements from Sinou and Cape Palmas. Can it be possible that a great nation would descend to such a wicked and contemptible thing? I cannot think it."

Gallinas

A fair view of what the slave trade was at this time, is given by Captain Bell, of the United States navy. In a letter to a friend, he says: "From the best information that could be obtained, there are now, and have been for several years past, shipped from Africa, upwards of two hundred and fifty thousand slaves per annum. This appears incredible to those who have not examined into the subject, but when it is considered that *sixty-two* vessels carrying, or prepared to carry, upon an average three hundred each, were sent into Sierra Leone last year, in addition to those sent to the Cape of Good Hope, and captured in the West Indies and on the Coast of Brazil, and

Capt. B. is very wrong in his information — about 70 thousand per year

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