# CHAPTER XXXIV.

## THE COLONY IN 1841.

On the 24th of February, 1841, the United States sloop of war Cyane, arrived at Monrovia, and Commander Latimer kindly took Governor Buchanan on board, and together they visited Bassa Cove, Sinou, and Cape Palmas. The following letter from Commander Latimer to the Secretary of the Navy is worthy of attention: "The arrival of this ship on the 24th of February, at Cape Mesurado, town of Monrovia, was hailed by the colonists with great pleasure. I paid a visit with Governor Buchanan, under whose judicious and able guidance the colony is directed, to the towns of Caldwell, on the St. Paul's, and New Georgia, on the Stockton river. The latter is settled by liberated African slaves, recaptured by our cruisers, and returned to their country by the government. I found both places in a very prosperous and flourishing state; each family occupying a comfortable house, and the grounds around under good cultivation, with an abundance of the comforts of life; and all cheerful, and perfectly contented with their situation, and not an emigrant expressed a desire to leave his adopted country and return to the United States. Besides the grounds around their houses, which supply them with a superabundance for their immediate wants, farms in the rear of the settlements are cultivated to some extent, and sugar-cane has been successfully introduced, and the cultivation of it is increasing.

"I will here remark, that all the recaptured Africans have embraced the Christian faith, and some have married with the emigrant women, and feel themselves very superior to the natives around them. They have the same privileges as the emigrants, are enrolled in the militia, have a vote at the elections, and each man has his musket; they have a school, and a



competent person to teach their children, and some of the adults have learned to read, and have adopted in all respects the customs of the emigrants.

"On ascending the Stockton, we stopped at Bushrod Island, on which the public farm is situated, and where the sugar-cane, cassada, sweet potato, plantains, bananas, and Indian corn are all growing with the greatest luxuriance. I found a mill, &c. erected for grinding cane, which had been in operation one season, and was found to answer the purpose very well. We returned in the evening to Monrovia, much delighted with our visit, and my most sanguine expectations very far exceeded.

"The town of Monrovia is finely situated on the peninsula which joins the cape to the main land. Its position is high, sloping gradually on the north side to the Mesurado river, along the banks of which the storehouses are built. It commands a fine prospect of the sea to the south, and Mesurado bay on the north, and has a population of about eight hundred persons. I was gratified to find the most strict observance of religious worship, and that great attention is paid to the education of their children. The inhabitants are intelligent, and generally engaged in mercantile pursuits; but the business of the place is on the decline, principally owing to the want of articles for exportation—camwood, palm oil, and ivory being the only commodities they offer in the way of trade, which are obtained from the natives, and not in great abundance. Many have accumulated a handsome property, and have retired from the mercantile business, and are turning their attention to agriculture. Coffee of the finest kind grows wild in the forest, and they are now rearing plants from the seed for their plantations, and in time sugar and coffee will become staples of the colony."

A union of the American Colonization Society and the Mississippi State Colonization Society was effected this year. The following are the articles of agreement, entered into between the Rev. Mr. McLain, the authorized agent of the American Colonization Society, of the one part, and the executive committee of the Mississippi State Colonization Society, of the other part.

It has been mutually agreed and determined as follows, viz:

1. That any and all land purchased, or hereafter to be pur-

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