ade, carried it, and had they not stopped to plunder some adjacent huts, could have swept the settlement by one determined rush into the sea. Danger so imminent was a tonic that not even African fever could withstand. Ashmun rallied the men retreating from the stockade, brought a canon to bear upon the plunderers, headed a charge as they hesitated, panic stricken by the fire—re-took the stockade—drove the natives to the cover of the forest, and the colony was saved.

On the 30th of November there was another attack, thrice renewed and as often repulsed, during which Ashmun had three bullets through his clothes, but escaped unhurt. This terminated the war. It was the first and last that ever threatened the existence of Liberia. An English schooner, passing Cape Mesurado, had been attracted by the firing. Laing, the African traveler, happened to be on board; and through his intervention a treaty of peace was made with the native chiefs, which, in the main, has not been disturbed. Each succeeding year, however, strengthened the colony with emigrants from the United States. The first arrival was accompanied by Dr. Ayres, who, displacing Ashmun, had the town of Monrovia laid out, and the land adjacent surveyed and distributed among the colonists. He was then, again, seized with African fever, and returned to the United States. His departure left the colony in confusion; when Ashman, overcoming his mortification at having been superseded by Dr. Ayres, assumed the charge of affairs, restored order by his firm and decided measures, and remained until prostrated by disease, when, with but the faintest hope of saving his life he sailed for the Cape de Verde, leaving the colony in the charge of Elijah Johnson, who has been already mentioned. At the Cape de Verde Ashmun found the Rev. R. R. Garley on his way to Monrovia, with full power from the United States Government and the Society to examine into the condition of affairs, and to establish some form of government. As soon as Ashmun's health permitted, he returned with Mr. Gurley to the colony; when the two prepared a constitution, republican in form, which was submitted to the people in the first rude house of worship erected in Liberia. Here it was adopted; and all present pledged themselves solemnly before God to support it: and this was the beginning of law and order in the colony. Mr. Gurley now returned to the United States, in August, 1824, leaving the government in the hands of Mr. Ashmun.

At this time the slave trade was active within sight of Monrovia. Fifteen vessels were engaged in it under the guns almost of the colony, and there was a contract between a slave-trader and a native chief by which 800 slaves were to be furnished within four months at a place only eight miles from the Cape. Mr. Ashmun, in 1822, had been on the defensive. He now assumed the offensive in the cause of humanity. A Spanish slaver had committed a flagrant act of piracy on an English

brig lying off Monrovia; and the agent determined to punish it. The brig was placed at his disposal, and embarking with fifty-four men, then his entire military force, he landed at the slave factory, released the slaves he found there, and, with the *prestige* thus obtained, succeeded in making a treaty with the native chief, which broke up the slave trade at that place forever. The destruction of the slave factories at Tradetown followed. Here he was assisted by two Colombian vessels of war which happened to be on the coast. These exploits of the agent of the American Colonization Society did more towards the suppression of the slave trade north of the Bight of Benin, than the presence of English and American cruisers for years had been able to accomplish. A fast sailing vessel filled with slaves might run with safety a blockading fleet; but when the barracoons that supplied the cargo were destroyed, the trade at that factory was at an end.

For five years Mr. Ashmun continued to be the agent of the Society in Liberia, ever battling with disease, and until the 25th of March, 1828; when, accompanied to the beach by the inhabitants of Monrovia, in tears, he left Africa never to return. On the 10th of August, after a brief delay in the West Indies, he landed in New Haven, and died there on the 25th, a victim to his labors in the cause of African colonization,—its Hero and its Martyr.

Since 1828, the Society has been so prominent, and the press has kept the public so well informed of events in Liberia, that it is enough to say now, that the expectations of the founders have been realized in the establishment of a Republic, where the slave trade once reigned supreme; with institutions modelled after our own; with a government well administered and recognized by the civilized nations of the world; with a commerce steadily increasing; with a coast line extending from the English colony of Sierra Leone to the Cavalla river east of Cape Palmas, and offering to intelligence and industry a home, where, in the land of their forefathers, the colored men of America may strive for and obtain all the rewards of honorable ambition. That Liberia will, one day, count its population by millions instead, as now, by thousands, we believe to be as certain as Destiny.

The eyes of the world may be said to be fixed upon Africa to-day. England, at the south, is extending her many arms northward from the Cape of Good Hope. England and France take charge of the Khedive on the north. The King of Belgium sends exploring expeditions from Zanzibar on the east, and English, Portuguese and Dutch traders, on the west, cluster around the mouth of the Livingstone at Embomma. All are striving for the trade of Africa, and value its civilization only as a means of improving the markets that this continent affords for the surplus products of the forge and loom. Far nobler than all that has been effected by king or trader is the work of this Society, which, apart

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XV. Pamphlets (not in original collection)
15. Liberia: Its Origin, Rise, Progress and Results, by J.H.B.Latrobe, January 20, 1880, in Washington, D.C.
Washington, 1880