Stay in Monrovia.—Grand Bassa: view from the roads.—The bight of Bassa and its origin.—Fishtown.—Upper Buchanan.—Edina.—Hydrographic conditions.—Excursion on the St. John River.—The rapids.—To River Cess: rocky coast.—Tobacconee and Devil Rock.—The Little Culloh River.—Visit to King Tom Will.—Timbo.—River Cess: the Dutch and Belgian factories.—The island of the dead.—Visit to King Davis.—To the rapids.—Journey to Sinoe.—Sinoe: promontory and bight.—The Sinoe River estuary.—Greenville.—The factories.—To the falls.—Bloobarra and Jack Dandy’s Town.—To Cape Palmas.—Cape Palmas: the promontory and Russwurm Island.—The Hoffman River.—Harper and Latrobe.—The saltwater lagoon.—Dr. Nachtigal’s grave.—Return journey to Schieffelinsville.—Goodbye to Hill Town.—Return to Monrovia.—Goodbye.—Return journey to Europe.

In Monrovia I enjoyed the hospitality of the Dutch consul, Mr. Modderman, and his wife, a gracious Dutch lady. They inhabited a beautiful, spacious house on Broad Street in the upper part of town, which they had furnished in European style in as much as the local conditions allowed for.
Mr. Modderman had, with several interruptions, been living in Liberia since the founding of the Dutch factories for nearly twenty years.¹ He knew the country and its people better than any other European, and I credit many a valuable observation on political and economic affairs to him. His wife, who hadn't yet been on the coast for very long, seemed to be able to endure the Liberian climate well, and she managed to make the usually rather monotonous life there as pleasant as possible.

Right after my arrival I consulted Father N. Stoll, a most jovial and amicable man. For a priest, he possessed considerable medical knowledge, which was supported by an extensive experience with diseases typical to the tropics. He had previously been a missionary in China, in south America, and had also spent many years in Sierra Leone, and was now the superior of the only Catholic mission in Liberia which had been established several years ago by a French order.²

During the first day my condition worsened rather than improved; quite soon, however, the benevolent effects of an appropriate diet, rest and the friendly Father's treatment made themselves known, and once things had taken a turn for the better, my recovery made rapid progress. As Father Stoll feared a relapse, he warned me not to return to Schieffelinsville too quickly. Therefore I now decided to carry out a plan I had been entertaining for a long time, being to visit several coastal towns and their surroundings in eastern Liberia in order to obtain a clear picture of the conditions in these parts. Just at that moment, a Woermann steamer coming from Hamburg was due to arrive, and which presented me with an excellent opportunity to realize this plan, especially as this ship was to head directly from Monrovia to Cape Palmas. From there I might then sail back along the coast in a sailing-ship of the firm of Muller & Co. that was then at Cape Palmas, and visit the most prominent ports.

¹ He has since then returned for good to Europe together with his wife.
² The Congrégation du Saint-Esprit et du Saint-Cœur-de-Marie. [“Liberia,” Journal of the Manchester Geographical Society, no. 4 (1887): 248. This Catholic mission began in 1843 after previous efforts of the church failed due to the high death rate among its foreign priests. Its replacements from The Congregation of the Holy Ghost likewise experienced a high attrition rate due to tropical fevers. These efforts lapsed until 1884 when the Fathers of Montfort restarted Catholic efforts with a new emphasis on education, including the founding of a school for boys. While received cordially by the then President Johnson, local sectarian ministers organized opposition to these efforts to insert the Catholic faith into Liberia, including those of the reportedly zealous Father Pierre Bourzeix who then retreated to work in Sierra Leone. In subsequent years the Catholic faith gradually became established in the country, leading to the initiation of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Liberia in 1927.]