1.

An Ordinance.

for the temporary government of the Territory of the Maryland State Colonization Society in Africa called Maryland in Liberia.

Section 1. Be it enacted and ordained by the Maryland State Colonization Society, that the territory of Maryland in Liberia shall be divided into townships, each of which shall contain, as near as may be, a superfice equal to nine square miles; and, hereafter, a certain number of townships shall be made to constitute a county.

Divisions of Territory.

Section 2. Be it enacted and ordained, that the Estates of proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descend to, and be distributed among, their children, and the descendants of a deceased child, or grand child, to take the share of their deceased parent, in equal parts, among them; and where there shall be no children, or descendants, then in equal parts to the next kin, of equal degree; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother,

Law of Descents.

or sister, of the intestate, shall have, in equal parts, among them, their deceased parents share; and there shall, in no case, be a distinction between the whole and half blood: Saving in all cases, to the widow of the intestate her third part of the real estate for life; (that is to say, land and the improvements thereon, in which, at any time during marriage, the intestate had an absolute and unqualified ownership) and one third part of the personal Estate, (that is to say all property, held by the intestate at the time of his decease, other than real property) after the payments of the debts of the intestate.

Widows Dower.

Section 3. Be it enacted and ordained, that estates in the said territory, may be devised, or bequeathed, by will in writing, or any written instrument, expressing an intention to devise or bequeath, and describing the property intended, so as to identify it, signed by him, or her, in whom the estate may be, (being of full age) and attested by two witnesses, signing the same in the presence of each other and in the presence of the Testator. And real Estates may be conveyed by any instrument describing, so as to identify it, the Estate to be conveyed, and shewing the intention of the person making the conveyance to convey, signed and delivered by the person (being of full age) in whom the Estate may be, and attested by two witnesses.

Estates conveyed by will.

Estates conveyed by Deed.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

I. Minutes
A. Records of the Meetings of the Board of Managers

2. March 1832—December 1834

1833