

## DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO ORGANIZATION OF INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT.

## COLONY OF MARYLAND IN LIBERIA,

*Be it known to all whom it doth concern*, that the bearers, Messrs. Wm. A. Prout and Wm. Cassell, citizens of Harper, Cape Palmas, having been duly elected by the people of the Colony of Maryland in Liberia, Commissioners in the settlement of future relations between the Maryland State Colonization Society and this Colony, preparatory to its change of government.

I have in testimony thereof, hereunto officially subscribed my name, and affixed the seal of the Colony this second day of September, *Anno Domini*, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, and of the Colony, the twentieth.

SAM'L F. MCGILL, *Governor Maryland in Liberia.*

[COLONIAL SEAL.]

## REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

The committee, to whom was referred the entire question connected with the adoption of the Constitution sent from the Colony and the arrangement of the future relations between this Society and Maryland in Liberia, in conjunction with Messrs. Prout and Cassell, Commissioners from the Colony, beg leave most respectfully to report:

That after carefully examining the various documents referred to them, and having conferred with Messrs. Cassell and Prout, the Commissioners of Maryland in Liberia, your committee have prepared, and recommend the Board to adopt the articles of agreement, herewith submitted, for the settlement of the future relations between the Society, and the Government and People of Maryland in Liberia. The provisions of this agreement are taken from that which was executed in 1848, between the American Colonization Society and the Republic of Liberia, with such few alterations and modifications as seemed to your committee advisable. Of these, it is deemed unnecessary here to speak in detail. The increase in the quantity of lands to be given to future emigrants has been made at the suggestion, and to comply with the wishes of the Commissioners. A comparison of the proposed agreement now submitted with that already mentioned between the American Colonization Society and the Republic, which will be found printed in the Maryland Colonization Journal, vol. 4, New Series, page 256, (being No. 16, for October, 1848,) will shew what modifications of the latter are recommended by the committee, the reasons for each of which they believe the Board will at once perceive.

The Constitution under which it is proposed to organize the Independent Government of Maryland in Liberia, as a whole, and with a single exception, meets with the approbation of the committee. Like all such instruments, it has probably been in many points, a compromise between conflicting opinions, and in some of its details, some of your committee, and they presume other members of the Board might think that alterations, made in accordance with their separate views would be improvements, whilst others again, might prefer the provisions actually adopted, to those that might be suggested in their stead. Your committee cannot, however, but express their deep regret at finding that it is the desire of the people of Maryland in Liberia, to strike out from their Constitution, that Article adopted by their convention which prohibits the introduction and sale of ardent spirits within their territory. It was after much and serious deliberation, that the Society when first founding the

## Maryland Historical Society

## The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

## VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers  
1856