

Colony at Cape Palmas, more than twenty years ago, adopted in their Constitution, provisions requiring all emigrants of full age, before they should be received there to bind themselves to refrain from the use of ardent spirits, except in cases of sickness, and disqualifying from holding any office, every person who should either use them, with the above exception, or traffic in them. This provision, the Society have believed, has tended to promote in the Colony, good order, morality and religion; and your committee trust that upon further reflection, the people who have so long had this provision in their fundamental code, will re-consider their decision, and not now abrogate it. Your committee submit herewith, and recommend the Board to adopt a resolution expressive of these views.

The articles of agreement herewith reported, contain all the provisions which in the judgment of your committee, should properly be made subjects of compact between the Government of Maryland in Liberia and the Society. There are, however, several other points suggested by Governor McGill, and by the Commissioners in regard to which it seems right that the views of the Society should be distinctly made known. It is asked: 1st. To what extent will the Society's Agent engage in traffic with the natives? Your committee understood it to be the intention of the Society, to allow their Agent to carry on with the natives such traffic only as may be necessary to enable him to procure food and other necessaries for emigrants, or to have houses built for their reception and accommodation; and that the 2d article of the proposed agreement, admitting the imports of the Society free of duty, is to be construed as extending to articles used in such traffic only, or for the wants of the Society itself or its newly arrived emigrants. The committee understood that it is not the design of the Society to prosecute hereafter any other or general traffic, for the purpose of increasing the revenues of the Society. Should their views change however in this respect, the Society must be at liberty to traffic with the natives on the same terms as citizens of Maryland in Liberia, paying of course in such case on all goods or other articles imported by the Society for such purpose of general traffic, the same duties, and being subject to the same restrictions and conditions in reference thereto, as may be imposed by law on citizens.

2. Will the Society provide teachers for Public Schools, and physicians to attend the Colonists generally; and what provision will be made to find employment and the means of subsistence for the indigent and destitute, and for paupers?

All these are matters, which in the opinion of your committee, will properly devolve exclusively on the new government about to be established, and on the people themselves of Maryland in Liberia. In assuming the rank and station with all the privileges and prerogatives rightfully belonging to a sovereign and independent state, it seems but reasonable that they should at the time take upon themselves the responsibilities and duties belonging to such a position. Their independence in the eyes of the world, would be regarded as but little more than nominal, were any foreign body or association, still required to aid them in the discharge of duties which legitimately belong to every people, as a part of their own domestic polity and organization of society. Your committee recommend therefore, that it be distinctly understood, that the Society enter into no engagement, express or implied, beyond what are contained in the proposed articles of agreement: that the Government of Maryland in Liberia, is to be to all intents and purposes free and self-dependent alone; and that the Society has no other or further connexion with it further than is provided for in the formal agreement proposed to be made between the parties, with reference to the continued operations of the Society in sending out emigrants, and providing for their support for six months after their arrival. It may be remarked at the same time, that the Society will unquestionably continue to entertain for the government and people, the same kind feelings that they have always manifested; and that the past course of the Society should afford a sufficient guaranty that it will

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers 1856