

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS, TRANSMITTED TO
THE COLONY.

WHEREAS, by the original Constitution and Form of Government, for the Colony at Cape Palmas, in Maryland in Liberia, adopted by the Board of Managers, of the Maryland State Colonization Society, on the 22d day of November, in the year 1833, it was provided, that all emigrants of full age before they should be received there, should bind themselves to refrain from the use of ardent spirits, except in cases of sickness; and that no person who should use ardent spirits with the above exception, or should traffic in them should be qualified to hold office in said Colony;—which provisions, have remained unaltered as a part of the Constitution and fundamental law of Maryland in Liberia to this day.

AND WHEREAS, in the Declaration of Rights and Form of Government, adopted and recommended to the approbation of the people of Maryland in Liberia, by the convention duly elected, and held during the past year, it was provided, that "the traffic in ardent spirits, ought not to be tolerated nor ought the purchase of it to be allowed, except under such provisions as the Legislature shall hereafter establish for cases of sickness."

AND WHEREAS, it appears that on submitting such Constitution to the people, a majority of said people voting thereon, did express themselves in favor of striking out the said provision.

Therefore be it Resolved by the President and Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, that whilst recognizing to the fullest extent, the right of the people of Maryland in Liberia, to adopt such a Constitution, and to pass such laws in pursuance of the same, as they may deem best calculated to promote their welfare and happiness, the President and Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, cannot but express their profound regret that the people of Maryland in Liberia, have evinced a disposition to depart, on so important a point, from the policy which was adopted in the foundation of their settlement and has always prevailed there, and do earnestly and affectionately advise and request the said people, to re-consider their opinions, to take this subject under their serious and prayerful consideration, to remember that in many of these States powerful efforts have been made and are now making, to check by Constitutional and Legislative enactments, the use of and traffic in ardent spirits, from a conviction that intemperance is the parent of much of the crime and misery existing among us, and that its prevalence can only be restrained by such enactments; and do hereby express their hope and trust that the people of Maryland in Liberia, will not now adopt a course which to many of their warmest friends will look like retrograding in the paths of propriety and virtue, but will on mature reflection, retain in their new Constitution those provisions in favor of Temperance which have always heretofore been incorporated in it.

WM. F. GILES, *Cor. Secretary.*

OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND STATE COL. SOCIETY, }
Baltimore, February 18th, 1854. }

Messrs. WM. CASSELL and WM. A. PROUT,

Commissioners from Maryland in Liberia:

GENTLEMEN,—The object of your mission to the United States being successfully accomplished, it only remains for the President and Managers of the State Colonization Society to congratulate you before your departure, upon the result of your visit to us. We take pleasure in expressing our hope and belief, that these will be acceptable and gratifying to your Constituents, as they have been to the Society;

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1856