ascertain how many would be sent from Maryland so destitute as to be thrown for support upon the colonial government at Liberia; and upon the number thus said depended the ascertainment of the average. If all the Emigrants from this State took with them either resources of their own, or contributions from their friends here, to render them independant from the moment of their arrival, no possible consideration could exist for the tax proposed to be levied. Twenty Dollars in this country, which invested in trade goods is worth forty in Africa might not be too much to charge for the maintenance of a hearty adult upon the cheap & simple food proper for the climate; but when exacted as it is by the resolution in question, for the infant at the breast, it assumes the appearance of imposition. Under these circumstances the Maryland Society was satisfied that the only means of arriving at the cost of maintaining Emigrants in Liberia was by the fact after the arrival of each expedition, and it was for this reason that in the propositions before mentioned the ascertainment of this part of the necessary expenditure on account of Emigrants was suggested to be left to future conference & agreement between the two Boards - the State Society offering to pay all the necessary expenses incurred by the Parent Society in consequence of Emigrants sent from Maryland to Africa, when so ascertained.

This proposition however was rejected; and without a single reason being given, & without the prospect of data upon which to form a correct estimate, and which the uncertain future could alone afford, the Board at Washington peremptorily & without distinction of any kind fixed the tax upon Emigrants from Maryland at $20 per head. Your Committee feel the conduct of the last named Board as particularly inexplicable, when they recollect that it is only two years, since the Parent Society obtained $1000 from Maryland which had been voted annually by the Legislature on condition that it should be appropriated to the removal of Emigrants from the State, and which the Parent Board were very glad to entitle themselves to, by shewing that they had removed Emigrants at the rate of $30 per head, sufficient to cover it. For the two last years this subscription has not been collected owing to the condition of its payment not having been complied with. Yet after all this, after lauding the subscription by Maryland as an example to the rest of the Union, when Maryland attempts to act for herself in the matter of Colonization the Parent Board imposes a tax of 66⅔ per cent on the sum which that Board itself, by accepting the donation of the Legislature, have admitted to cover all the expenses of ~~Colonization~~ Emigration; and which sum, independent of the tax would still have to be paid by the State Society for every Emigrant that it might send to Africa. What your Committee have here said is under the supposition that it is fair & right that the State Society should pay all the expenses whatever of its Emigrants, including transportation & subsequent maintenance, as well as the proportional cost of the Colonial establishments in Africa and in this Country, and the objection has been only to the onerous and unauthorised assumption of the right to tax the State Society, without limit, by the Parent Board.

There is another view of the subject, however, to which your Committee wish to call your attention. A very large portion of the annual receipts of the American Colonization Society is derived from States having no free blacks to remove, but contributing to the cause generally. Now the States furnishing Emigrants are certainly all equally entitled, in fair proportion to a distributive share of the funds thus contributed, and there is no possible reason why Maryland should be excluded from the benefit of the contributions of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio &c and such contributions appropriated exclusively to Virginia &

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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

1. February 1831--December 1831

1831