a single evening meeting for effect, to a meeting for business from day to day, at which the interests of the Colony in Africa, the condition of the colored population in America, the situation of the cause of colonization, and the plan of operations of each succeeding year might be discussed deliberately & at length by those the most deeply interested in the consideration of the subject. Such discussions, if ventured, at the annual meetings as they are now held, would probably be considered as intrusive by the crowd who attend to listen to the displays of oratory & feeling produced by the occasion. The Parent Board, instead of being weakened by the adoption of this plan would be strengthened, since in place of feeling that its election was made without interest by the few who lingered in the Hall at the close of the annual meeting, it would feel that it was truly the authorized & responsible representative of the friends of African Colonization in the United States. Its labors would be perhaps lessened, in the case of those States which like Maryland would assume the removal of their own free colored population; but its real dignity & efficiency would be greatly increased.

In thus stating their views, your Committee do not wish you to infer, that they feel at all disposed to yield to the views of the Parent Board. The question is one of too much importance in every point of view to be passed over in silent acquiescence to a decision that is deemed both unjust & impolitic. It was the anxious wish of this Society to have aided the American Colonization Society in its labors. The hope of ultimately doing this, is not yet by any means abandoned; but before it can be done the policy of the Parent Board must be most materially altered.

Your Committee is well aware of the reception that these views met with in Washington on a late occasion & do not believe that any alteration of them in any form will be productive of a more satisfactory result. Your Committee however are informed that the Pennsylvania Colonization Society in Philadelphia, and the Colonization Society of New York entertain similar principles with those expressed in this report. If this is the case & those societies are willing to cooperate with the Maryland Society in this important matter, the joint action of these bodies may produce more effect than has been gained by the strong, earnest & most respectful representations of the Society here. Numerical authority always adds weight to argument and it is believed that if the assistance of the States in question can be obtained, it will most probably have the effect of settling an amicable & permanent basis for the future operations of the State Societies & defining the nature & extent of their relations to the Parent Board. With a view therefore to effect such a change in the proceedings of the Parent Society at Washington, to the objects of which the State Society considers itself strictly auxiliary, & in whose proceedings as a constituent it is deeply interested, your Committee recommend an immediate conference with the Societies of New York & Pennsylvania, in the hope that it may lead to the removal of those restrictions with which the Parent Board have succeeded in checking the utility, if not the existence of the Maryland State Society. Should the Parent Board however continue to insist upon the terms proposed in the letter referred to your Committee, the three Societies, supported by one another will be able to decide more confidently & act more efficiently in their future course, & if necessary take into

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