of Spirits chosen.

A Colonization Society had existed here for some years, which sent on its contributions to the Parent Institution; but these funds being applied to the general purposes of that Society, without producing any effect on the Colored population of this place; a total indifference to the cause had been, in this way produced & the Society had become defunct. For the last year they could not get members enough together, to form a quorum, to dispose of the money lying in their Treasury. In the Northern States, where the free Blacks form a small proportion of the whole population, and are not so burthensome on the public the Subject is viewed in its general character & people will contribute towards the general result; but where the burthen is already overwhelming, & rapidly increasing as it is in this State, the people will not contribute to the removal of a body of Slaves or free blacks from Missouri, Georgia, Virginia or elsewhere, when their own interests are entirely overlooked & neglected. When the principles of the Maryland Colonization Society the [illegible] counties was explained, & it was understood the money advanced was secured to the benefit of their County & the organization formed with a view to enlightening and preparing the blacks for the purpose, this plan was embraced with a zeal commensurate with its importance. After the business of the meeting was over it was proposed that I should deliver an address to the colored people, in their own church. To this I readily agreed. The few blacks who were in attendance were directed to go out & inform the colored people of the town, that I would meet them in two hours at the place appointed.

Tho' the notice was so short, the house was pretty well filled, & on this occasion Masters & Mistresses urged their Slaves, as well as the free, to go & hear for themselves, the history & present state of the Colony. Several Slaves were offered their liberty if they chose to go to the Colony. This address had a good effect on the minds of some of the more intelligent of the blacks, tho' much hostility exists among some of them to the undertaking. I have had the mortification of being looked upon in no other light than as a Georgia slave dealer, by those for whose benefit & happiness I have labored so long & suffered so much. This reflection was instantly relieved by viewing in anticipation the blessings to be derived by their posterity & to millions yet unborn, tho' these should so foolishly reject it. It is a fact which I have found to be true, tho' almost incredible, that a great part of the colored people of this State are deterred from accepting the offer of going to the Colony, thro' a fear of deception in the Whites. They believe or affect to believe that those who have already accepted the proffered boon, have been betrayed & sold in Georgia as Slaves. When there shall be pains taken to diffuse correct information among them, there will be no want of passengers.

The rapid emigration from this county, has thrown so much land into the market & at the same time the purchasers being withdrawn, it will scarcely command any price. In this county with navigable waters at almost every plantation; with a soil by nature not inferior to the valley of the Mississippi with beds of marl sufficient to manure the whole of the Eastern shore; with a soil in which the vine & the Mulberry flourish without a parallel. I have visited the island of Madeira during the vintage but I never saw the vine there hung loaded as I have seen in Dr Kains vineyard in Caroline County the third year only from the planting of the cuttings

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