slaves, to the entire neglect of the productions of their soil. The natives have been in the habit of selling 200.000 slaves annually - for which they have received in exchange articles, the prime cost of which, was about $5.000.000. This trade has been rapidly decreasing since the establishment of our Colony. It is stated, that their sales last year were but 10.000 slaves. Thus has the Colonization Society, more than any other or than all other causes just together, been the instrument of saving 190.000 human beings from being dragged annually into slavery. The ten thousand slaves sold last year, brought to the natives but $250.000 leaving a deficiency in their annual supplies of $4.750.000.

The consequence is, we hear from travellers in the interior that there are nations, as naked as they were born. By the stoppage of the slave trade they have suddenly been deprived of their accustomed supplies: cut off from the inducement to their accustomed avocation - that of war - they are now a people, without the necessaries of life, without clothing, without inducement to action & with all their old habits broken in upon. They are now ready to be turned to any object you will present to them. If you will call for the indigenous productions of their soil, they will run a hundred miles to supply you. If you call for rice - they will produce it. When I first landed among them, I could only get about 2 quarts at a time - Before I left there, I bought one hundred bushels of a day, & now it could be bought by the ship load - If you call for their Dye wood they will stagger for days together under a back load for a Madras handkerchief or its value - If you would call for slaves they would go, surround the weakest neighboring village, fire the town & kidnap the inhabitants as they fled from the flames & sell them to you. Thus may you change the occupation of a million of human beings with a single word. Now is the time for us to operate on Africa, & to cancel the immense debt which we owe to that Continent. By so doing we may raise up a powerful auxiliary to the Agents for which we are associated. An immense trade is now to be opened in that country - The inhabitants have been numbered at 150.000.000 - They are barefooted - each one would wear two pair of shoes a year - 300.000.000 pairs of shoes & they would give you the raw hides to make them off, in return for the shoes. Each inhabitant would wear ten yards of Cotton cloth per year - for they would all be clothed as we are, if they could procure it for the production of their soil, & they have the raw cotton growing indigenous & blowing away like the down of the thistle. The British manufacture of cotton annually 360.000.000 yards for exportation, & 310.000.000 for home consumption - making a total of 750.000.000 yards, the annual production of the British looms - This would be barely sufficient to make one suit a piece for the inhabitants of Africa. To clothe them all would require the present production of America & England. If the slave trade is stopped they must turn their attention to the cultivation of their soil, they will then be in want of mechanical & agricultural instruments - 2 millions of small - nuts could very soon be exchanged, at this time for Rice, Ivory, indigo, gold &c & in this trade no nation can come in competition with Americans, as we have the agents through our Colonists, if we have the good sense to make a proper use of them that no other people have. The articles which would be employed in this trade, on our part are manufactured, of considerable value & of small bulk; what we should

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