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which once impeded its progress and threatened its extinction; and all that is required to ensure its complete success is an effort in its behalf that shall be commensurate with its importance.

The legislature of Maryland upon this subject has marked a new epoch in her history; and teems with consequences of the deepest importance, not only to herself, but to the whole Southern section of this country. Although, so far as colonization is concerned, it purports to effect the free people of color alone, yet in its practical results it operates upon the entire colored population, slave and free; and, if followed up, as the spirit of the age and the experience of the state warrant the belief that it will be, must, in the end, entitle Maryland to be ranked among the free states of the Union. When this shall be accomplished, the ability of a slave holding state to free itself from slavery by its own resources, in its own way, and without the ill-timed and injudicious interference of others in its internal concerns, will be demonstrated. Maryland has determined to make the experiment; and to Maryland is the attention of the statesmen and philanthropists of the whole Union already anxiously directed.

In this state of things, it becomes the people of Maryland to lend that active and individual aid which is essential to the object. The appropriation of money by the legislature will be vain, if the people themselves do not take up the cause with interest, and prosecute it with energy. Every individual throughout



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the state should be made sensible of the importance of the measure, and fully acquainted with all the facts and circumstances relating to it, in every stage of its progress. The history of the colony of Liberia, its present condition, its daily growth, the laws by which it is governed, the situation, prospects and feelings of its inhabitants, their connection with surrounding nations — their commerce, internal and external, all should be made as familiar as household words, by the constant dissemination of intelligence respecting them. The situation of the colored population of this country, their influence upon the morals and condition generally, of society, the comparative value of slave and free labour, all should be carefully and constantly discussed: and, in short, a subject that has been avoided hitherto, as one that it was impolitic to agitate, ought to be placed in the broadest light, which the most unrestrained canvass of its advantages and disadvantages can throw upon it. In this way the whole state will be roused to action; and the officers appointed by the state to superintend its munificent endowment of this great work instead of labouring to effect their duties in spite of opposition, or without popular support, will be seconded by an universal feeling, that must increase tenfold the efficiency of their exertions.

It is with the view of aiding in producing this co-operation throughout the state, not less than to increase the pecuniary means applicable to the general cause, that the Maryland State Colonization Society has been incorporated and proposes to act.

While

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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

2. March 1832—December 1834

1832