Repl. of Bd. of Man.rs

of the State appropriation, the services as agent of Mr Robert S. Finley, well known throughout the Union, as an Enthusiast in the Holy cause of Colonization; and, when deprived, by his domestic engagements, of the aid of that gentleman, they were equally fortunate in procuring the aid of the Reverend William McKenny, a native of the Eastern shore, who has likewise devoted abilities of a high order, to the welfare and improvement of a most interesting portion of mankind. These gentlemen were accredited to those districts of the State, which the advanced season of their appointments permitted them to visit, and have been highly successful in forming Societies auxiliary to this, and in exciting the favorable attention of both the white and the colored population to the subject of voluntary Emigration by the latter.

In accordance with a custom which there is every reason to hope will be corroborated by time, the great National festival has again been, by request consecrated by the ministers of Religion in various parts of the State to the communication of the blessings we ourselves so peculiarly enjoy to the afflicted children of a benighted land; and the board have the happiness to acknowledge important pecuniary aid collected through the pious exertions of the clergy on that day. Services of this nature cannot be too gratefully accepted, or earnestly solicited; nor can we conceive a more appropriate celebration of the anniversary of our National Birth. Surely, if there be a work worthy of our political sabbath, it is to rouse the African from a torpid and depressed existence here, and bind him as the herald of civilization freedom and Religious truth to a people that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of Death.

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In nothing the misgivings that have been made upon the colored population, it is a highly gratifying circumstance that the intelligent and industrious cultivators of the soil evince, in accordance with the well known tendency of Agricultural pursuits to develop the manly virtues of character the most lively sensibility to the Exertions of the benevolent in their behalf. Many of the free Colored farmers of Maryland have already availed themselves of the liberality of the State; and a still larger number await but the settlement of their domestic concerns to follow in a path which leads to prosperity and independence. Nothing is hazarded in the remark that the company of emigrants in the La Fayette, might compare for respectability of deportment, for intelligence and firmness with men selected under similar circumstances from any people upon Earth. The anomalous character of that enterprise is to notorious to require other than a passing comment here. The able managers of the State fund having detailed the facts connected with it to the supreme authority it is judged more correct to refer to their report than to recapitulate its statements in this document. A report to this Board from the Executive committee is herewith submitted, shewing the faithful and Energetic manner in which they have fulfilled on that occasion the injunctions of the managers to cooperate with the State Commissioners; and also the particular application of the means placed at their disposal.

The beneficent influences of our association have manifested themselves in the very opening of our practical career. The prejudices of Colonization have not miscalculated the contagious influences of generous example: and a number of voluntary emanci-

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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

1833