December Session of the Legislature succeeding, the State embarked nobly in the great cause, and made its munificent donation of Two hundred thousand dollars; for the transportation and reception of Emigrants in Africa; and the State Society was incorporated with ample powers to accomplish the ends which it had in view.

It was early foreseen that a difficulty would arise in the limited capacity of the present settlement to receive Emigrants from Maryland to the extent that hereafter might be desirable. The Parent Society acting for the entire Union was bound to apportion the number of Emigrants, that Liberia was capable of accommodating, among the applicants from the different States; when if the quota of Maryland should not be equal to her demand a check might be given to Emigration, at times when it might be most prejudicial. Indeed a very small increase of the number of Emigrants would have produced this effect during the present year. With a view, therefore to this anticipated emergency, the State Society determined to form a new Colony, which, increasing in its capacity to receive, in the same proportion, that the spirit of Emigration increased at home, would be the means of placing the State beyond the reach of any circumstances over which it, or the

State Society, could have no control.

There were reasons besides that above mentioned, which particularly moved the State Society to undertake by itself the establishment of a new settlement, under its own auspices. It had so happened that the present Colony of Liberia had assumed rather a commercial character in the course of its brief but valuable existence. The wealth that some of its settlers had acquired, was owing to the trade which they carried on with the natives and with the vessels that frequented their harbor. It was the desire of the Maryland State Society to see Agriculture made the object of primary importance; not only as placing the means of their own sustenance in the hands of the Colonists, and rendering them independent of remote places or the native inhabitants for food; but because nine tenths, if not a far greater proportion of the Emigrants from this Country would make better Farmers than Traders - besides which instead of having all their bad feelings brought into play by the artificies of a petty native traffic, engendering vicious habits, by the intervals of idleness, that it afforded, the Emigrants finding employment in agricultural pursuits, from the moment of their arrival and occupied with healthful labour, would have their (mind

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