was not of sufficient importance to attract much attention, and pursuing the tenor of its ordinary policy the Society avoided as much as practicable the discussion of all those questions which were unnecessary to its success and which could only produce excitement and confusion in the argument But this State of things could not long continue Liberia grew fast into importance - the friends of Colonization multiplied throughout the land - evils which had not the remotest connection with Colonization were imputed to it - and at the last annual meeting of the Society in Washington,(a) there was a warm, excited and protracted discussion in which more of political feeling developed itself than was to have been desired or looked for in the deliberations of a purely philanthropic institution. The Board of managers allude to this now because intimately connected with the course of proceeding which they have felt themselves called upon to pursue. That the angry feelings which circumstances elicited at the last annual meeting of the society at Washington would never again intrude themselves was not to be supposed, on the contrary there was every reason to believe from the very constitution of the Society itself, acting as it did for States and persons so widely variant in their opinions, that

(a) (Jan'y. 1833)

the contest as to what ought to be the objects and plans of the Society in relation to Slavery, once commenced would ever be renewed, until North and South in angry suspicion of each other would both withdraw their support from the institution which neither would consent that the Other should govern and the contest for the control power in which would cease only when both abandoned their pretentions to wield it and the Society as a matter of course fell to the ground, and became extinct. Even if this result were not probable it was possible, and the Board of Managers acting with a view to second the intentions of the State exemplified in her legislation upon the subject felt themselves called upon to provide for any emergency of the kind if it should occur; and they found in the Maryland System of Colonization all the advantages of the general scheme without any of those defects which seemed to menace with difficulties, if not destruction the more extended system of operations of the Society at Washington. Herself a Slave holding State, Maryland was known to be as jealous as any State south of the Potomac of extraneous interferance with her domestic policy upon the subject of Slavery. While therefore she was determined to repudiate all attempts to force abolition upon her, she was not likely to interfere with her southern neighbours: And to this feeling which is

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

1834