common to all her ~~neighbors~~ Citizens, may be in a great degree, attributed that system which was here first originated and afterwards adopted by the Board of Managers as their rule of action.(6) It cannot be better explained than in the words of their address already often alluded to and containing at length the Motives and reasons for such conduct. "The system" quoting from the address," is one which gives to each State, what Maryland has already assumed; the sole management of Colonization within its confines- those States having emigrants to send to Liberia, sending them for such reasons as pleases them- those States having no Emigrants for Africa but which are willing to contribute their money to the cause of Colonization, selecting for themselves the particular objects, or the peculiar views, connected with the subject which they are most desirous to advance and contributing accordingly- it being a rule to avoid interfering, by word or deed with the subject of Slavery in other States. When each State thus holds Colonization in its own keeping it will cease to be an object of dislike or apprehension to any one of them. It will no longer be the pretence for raising the cry of interferance, on the part of the North, with the Slavery of the South, which has already excited such angry feelings and which threatened at one time to jeopardize the continuance of the Union itself. Any attempt on

(6) See Address pag 133

the part of the North to procure the avowal, in the parent Society, of principles obnoxious to the South, could only succeed after a bitter contest, and would, if successful, be followed by the withdrawal of nearly all, if not all, the Slaveholding States from any participation in the general design- while the success of the South in such a contest would, perhaps, be followed by the North withholding that assistance which it has so liberally afforded. Seperate State action upon the subject, however as in Maryland, will at once abate all irrating questions connected with the subject between the North and South, without loosing a single friend to Colonization" Besides the views here expressed which are general in their character there were others of more immediate application that pressed strongly upon the Board of Managers. It is already understood, having been fully expressed in the address of the Bd of Managers ~~from which the foregoing is an extract~~ that the State Society looks forwards to the period when Maryland shall rank among the non-Slaveholding States of the Union: but it must also be understood that the State Society looks to this being brought about by the natural course of events- by the voluntary action of the State itself and with the consent of those who are most interested in the species of property in question. It forms no part of the plan of the State Society to enter the lists

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