Mr. Latrobe stated to the Board, that with a view of securing upon proper principles, and upon the plan of independent action, heretofore adopted by the State Society, the co-operation of individuals and Societies in other States of the Union, Mr. Harper and himself had on the 9th of April, prepared and forwarded to the Rev. S. R. Wynkoop a Constitution of "Colonization Aid Societies", a Copy of which they presented to the meeting. Whereupon the Board resolved, that while they refrained from any interference with the action of other States, upon the subject, they would be glad at all times, to see the system developed in the above Constitution, carried into full and efficient action, and would be always eager to accept the assistance of such Aid Societies, as might approve of the plan of operations of the Maryland State Society. –

The following is a Copy of the Constitution referred to above, –

Constitution of the Colonization Aid Societies. –

Whereas, while we deeply lament the existence of Slavery in any part of the American republic, we are unwilling to encroach upon the rights, or do violence to the feelings of any of our fellow citizens of the Slave holding States, by an interference with that species of property, which has been secured to them by law, and guarantee by the Constitution of the United States: but whereas, at the same time, we are solicitous for the extirpation of the evil, so far as we can reasonably and properly promote it; therefore,

Resolved, That we form ourselves into a Society, under the name of the Colonization Aid Society, for the purposes hereinafter stated, and hereby adopt the following Constitution: –

Article 1. The object of this Society, shall be the collection of funds, to be appropriated at its discretion, in aid of such Colonization Societies, in the slave-holding States of the Union, as may apply therefor, and as may avow and prosecute the Colonization plan, as a means of exterpating the Institution of slavery, in their respective States. –

Art. 2. The payment of dollar annually, shall constitute an individual a member of this Society, and the payment at one time of Thirty dollars, or upwards, shall constitute a member for life. –

Art. 3. The Officers of this Society shall consist of a President Vice Presidents, twelve managers, a Corresponding Secretary a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be elected forthwith, and annually, hereafter, on the day of ; but if an election shall not be held at such time, the Officers last chosen shall continue to hold their Offices, until an election shall be made, at a meeting of the Society, to be called for the purpose. –

Art. 4. All the officers above mentioned, shall be, ex officio, members of the Board of Managers. –

Art. 5. The Board of Managers shall meet to transact the business of the Society, when five shall constitute a quorum, and shall have all the powers necessary to carry into effect

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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

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