Agent has been able to bestow upon the limited number of Emigrants that he received by each expedition. There are now however ample accommodations for 150 new comers; and the Board propose to send two expeditions of that number each, during the ensuing year.

The Board would here remark, that in collecting Emigrants from among the free persons of color in the State, the greatest difficulty they have experienced, has grown out of the incredulity of these with regard to the accounts given to them of Africa. Even when their friends in Liberia have written to them, inviting them to emigrate, and speaking favorably of the Country, they have believed that a restraint was upon the writers, and that the Society's Agents prevented any letters from reaching America, which did not speak in terms of praise of Africa. The ingenuity of the colored people in this State, devised a simple test of the reliance that was to be placed in letters purporting to be written by their friends, which they have, during the last year or eighteen months been putting into practice. When the Emigrant sailed from the United States, he took with him one half of a strip of Calico, the other half being retained by the person to whom he was to write when he reaches Africa. If he was permitted to write without restraint, and if he spoke his real sentiments in his letter, he

enclosed his portion of the Calico, which, matching with that from which it had been severed, gave authenticity (and weight) to the correspondence. Many of these tokens, as they are called, have been received, and their effect has been evident in the greater willingness manifested by the free people of color to emigrate; especially those of them who are at all well judging and well informed. Of those who have emigrated to Cape Palmas, a majority is of this description, and some of them are of a character and intellect which promise the happiest influences upon the young community, whose numbers they have gone to swell.

Many Emigrants from Monrovia, have joined the settlement at Cape Palmas, the heads of families going down in the first instance, and preparing the necessary dwellings and commencing cultivation, and afterwards being joined by their wives and children. The addition thus made to the population, is represented as useful and respectable. The number of Colonists, with those who sailed in the Fortune, is now about Two hundred and fifty.

The Board have already stated, that the Colony of Maryland in Liberia, is founded upon the Temperance principle, and that Agriculture is, at present, the primary object of attention. Of the wisdom of their course in these respects, the Board find, in the state of things at Cape Palmas, every reason to be assured. The emigrants, to judge not only

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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

3. January 1835--June 1838

1836