A committee of the board of managers was recently instructed to visit, and confer with, the managers of the branch societies of New York and Philadelphia, in the hope that they might concur in measures tending to strengthen the bonds of Union to the parent institution, and to give the powers and influence indespensible to its unembarrassed operation as a national society.

The managers regret that questions of great interest between the parent and united auxiliary societies remain yet undecided. They trust that all the wisdom of the society will be directed, so to order and settle the relations between the parent and all subordinate institutions, that in any movement each shall have more power, and all more harmony. The respected chairman of the Mississippi Society, expressed the hope, that some general plan should be devised, which, admitting to some extent of seperate action in the State Societies, might neither impair the energy nor weaken nor disturb the control of the parent society. There are advantages to be derived from enlisting state interest and emulation in the cause. The people of Maryland would probably give more to sustain a Maryland colony, than for one equally rela-

ted to every state in the Union. There are also disadvantages. It may be questioned whether, at present, they do not overbalance its advantages. In this scheme of colonization, nothing effectual can be done with small means without system. The present contributions to the object, if united, may effect something. Should they be divided and expended by the several State Societies, will there be ~~gained~~ by the increase to compensate for what is lost by divided councels and divided strength. Whether we consider unity of opinion throughout the country, on a subject in regard to which, of all others, differences are most fatal to success or action of energy in a case where all present available power is inadequate to the work; or harmony in a complex system, where the irregularity of a part may retard the movement of, if not ruin the whole; or economy in an enterprise, to the greatness of which the pecuniary means already secured bear no comparison, and which, without vastly increased resources can never be completed; or order and peace, common laws, and uniform manners, in the colonies to be planted on a distant shore, the managers are convicted that a society, national in its character, conducting its operations through one central organization, has advantages over any other, and that its subversion might en-

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

1837