mittee have for objecting to the present movement. The object of it is, among other things, to fix upon a constitution for the Colonies on the coast of Africa. But, is it not known, that Virginia, Mississippi and Louisiana have each determined to found a Colony; and ought we not, at all events, to wait, until the societies in these states, equally interested as they soon will be, can join in our deliberations upon an equal footing? Again, it is suggested, that the American Colonization Society shall purchase, forthwith, the territory between Cape Palmas and Sierra Leone, not already owned by the society, and that no auxiliary society shall plant a colony there, without the consent of the American Colonization Society, unless within the declared boundary of a colony already planted. If the object of this is to prevent purchases by strangers, to the prejudice of colonization, it is a fair and proper precaution. If it is to obtain nominal possession of the coast, so as to dictate the terms upon which future settlements by state auxiliary societies shall be made, there is much to be said against it.

From what is here stated, it must not be supposed that the committee do not feel the importance of uniformity in the laws, by which the colonies are to be governed, and the importance, also, of maintaining among them a kind and affectionate feeling, that will at a proper time, unite them strongly and happily under a confederated government.

The Committee fully appreciate the necessity of such a common system; but, it is, in their opinion, a system, that must be carried on, for some time, at least, in this country, and not committed to the management of congress in Liberia, until the governments there, of which the mere seeds are yet sown, shall have attained much greater maturity than at present;— and they propose, that for the purpose of forming a common system, there shall be held a convention of ~~emigrants~~ delegates, from the American Colonization Society and the several State Societies, at which each shall be equally represented, and by which a code of laws shall be prepared and approved, which each society will then make the law of its particular Colony, and which Convention shall determine here, all those matters of general concern, that the constitution, reported by the committee on

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