turn their attention to agriculture more steadily than they had yet done. Present inconvenience, may, in this way result in ultimate good. The policy of the Board with respect to trade had not been changed, it still remained in the hands of the Agent; but the Colonists without a Coin as a medium of exchange had been obliged to become traders, in some fashion, in their intercourse with the natives for provisions. The recent scarcity has strongly admonished the Colonists to raise their own provisions, and the lesson they have received in this respect will not, it is hoped be soon forgotten.

In the last Annual Report it was stated that with a view of obviating the necessity of Trade and barter among the Colonists & between the natives, the Board had sent out a paper Currency so designed and engraved as to be intelligible as representatives of value to the illiterate natives as well as to the Colonists. The accounts received from Governor Ruggoman state that the

plan has fully answered the purpose intended, — and is popular with none more than the natives themselves. While the system of barter was in vogue, a native scarcely ever sold an article to a Colonist and received Merchandize in exchange that he was not obliged to divide a portion of it among such friends as happened to be by when the bargain was struck. Now when he is paid in a piece of paper, this partnership of profit, cannot take place, and the paper is turned into goods at the public Store when the holder can secure the entire proceeds to his own use. This is perfectly understood by the natives; and hence the popularity with them of the paper currency. Another good effect of it is, that it enables the Colonists to lay by what they can spare of their earnings, and there is a plan on foot in consequence of a savings institution. Above all, the petty traffic which obliged the Colonists to keep apartments to deal with the natives, is well nigh broken up.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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

4. June 1838--October 1851

1839