pointed to proceed to Philadelphia to attend it. The Committee declined, when in convention taking part in any proceedings looking to the establishment of a general head in the United States, - because on mature reflection the Maryland Society had seceded from the American Colonization Society, and had adopted the plan of independent state action, - or to the establishment of such a head in Africa, because they thought in the present scattered situation of the Colonies, their scant population and the difficulty of communicating between them, - it was wholly premature, and would afford no possible advantages, so far certainly as the Maryland Colony was concerned that would compensate for the additional drain it would make upon means sufficiently limited and the complication it would introduce into affairs which it is on all accounts desirable to keep simple. The Maryland Society too, had made a Colored man their agent in Africa. For two years he had performed all his

duties to the satisfaction of the Board: and however limited might be the power of the Governor General; the fact that he was a white man and had in any particular a controling power, would detract from the moral influence which the placing of government in the hands of one of their own color and its tendency to elevate their appreciation of their own ability and capacity, were producing among the Colonists in Maryland in Liberia.

With these reasons the Maryland delegation could not join in the proceedings of the Convention, further than to agree to the adoption of a plan to be prepared, regulating the intercourse of the Colonies themselves - providing a uniform currency - for the authentication of public records - for a common flag - for the delivery up of fugitives from justice, and for the rights of citizenship of the residents of one settlement in the other settlement, - matters mainly of an international character, and requiring the action of the State Societies only, independent wholly

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