sure I am able to announce a state of perfect healthiness in the colony. Since June last, we have had no deaths. Indeed, I do not know that there has been a more healthy period than the present."

In the early periods of African colonization, ignorance of the best mode of treating diseases incident to the climate, the unsheltered condition of the colonists, and the despondency that at times prevailed in consequence of the privations natural to their condition as first settlers, caused frequent deaths, which instead of being attributed to temporary, and often accidental circumstances, were taken as furnished the standard by which the effect of the African climate on the constitution was forever to be estimated. Now, that the colonists are comfortably housed and fed, and well clothed, and of contented minds, and that experienced physicians are at hand, the mortality among them is not greater in Africa than it would have been had they remained in the United States. In many instances, where intemperate persons have emigrated, their health has improved, and their life no doubt been prolonged beyond what it would have been had they remained in this country. The testimony afforded by Mr. Minor and Dr. McGill, relating as it does to both the white and coloured residents of the colony, is particularly important. The number of the former being about 20 and of the latter rather more

than 500.

The last despatches from the colony are dated the 27th September, and the condition of things then exhibited was very satisfactory. The Board are aware that it is very easy to write letters from Africa to the United States, giving an account of affairs, which, without being false, is in fact exaggerated in the description of the prosperity of the people and their experience has led them to distrust the statements that are put forth by those on whom the responsibility of keeping things in order properly hangs. And they have been especially careful in their publications and reports not to say anything which would be charged upon them as unkind by those who went Africa on the strength of the representations of the Board or its agents. It was therefore with more than ordinary gratification that the Board read the proceedings of the council of Maryland in Liberia, that accompanied the last despatches from Governor Russwurm. They furnished an account of the every-day transactions of the colony, not liable to the suspicion of being gotten up for effect, but exhibiting the actual and unexaggerated condition of things, between April 1839, and March 1840. Among other orders adopted was one, required by the increase of the colony in size, appointing surveyors for the public roads, and dividing the township of Harper into four sections, for their more convenient action. Another order passed by

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

1842