hereafter transferred to Africa, would make the colony of Maryland in Liberia a nation among the family of nations. That of consequence, all persons residing in the territories of the Society, not citizens of the colony, were like strangers residing in any other civilized country and bound to pay obedience to the laws. This being early and well understood, has obviated many embarrassments that might otherwise have arisen, and has placed things upon a footing that it is believed has proved, in the end, satisfactory to all parties.

During the past year no expedition with emigrants has been sent to the colony. One of the reasons for this has been the want of funds, and the indisposition of the Society to go in debt for the purpose. Another and most influential one was, that the excitement for emigration to Trinidad and Guiana, prevailed to such an extent among the coloured people as to prevent their listening to the favorable pretensions of any other place to their notice. The Board of Managers were unwilling in any manner to throw difficulties in the way of the emigration of the free coloured people to these islands - although they were firmly of the opinion that the day would when they would find out, that while the English planters held out every inducement for them to leave the United States, philanthropy had

but little to do with their proceedings in this respect, self-interest constituting their exclusive motive - and that ultimately the coloured people would open their eyes to the fact that in the British islands they were but exchanging with the white American superior for the white British - and that the difference of colour which formed the insuperable barrier to Amalgamation in America was not less high no more easily surmounted in Trinidad and Guiana than in Maryland. That the enjoyment of petty offices was but a short step to real liberty and that the English residents themselves welcomed them warmly, exactly in proportion as they could do good service in the sugar plantations of the colony. In many instances, it is believed that the coloured people have realized what is here stated as true - and have expressed their disappointment with the result of their emigration. In the meanwhile the Board of Managers have gone on to strengthen and improve their colony in Africa, satisfied that the time is at hand when it will be hailed by the free people of colour of Maryland as the only place where they can be really free, and where their energies, relieved from the incubus imposed by the presence of a white population enjoying all political power, can profitably, fully and rapidly expand.

In one respect the emigration that has taken place to Guiana and Trinidad is most important. It shows

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