inhabited by persons of color emigrants from the United States,- who from their peculiar condition and circumstances, cannot be considered as owing to the American governments any other than a local allegiance, determinable upon their withdrawing from the territory of said governments: and whereas, in pursuance of the said purpose, the said Society has purchased of the native kings and proprietors as well the sovereignty, as the property of the territory now known by the name of Maryland in Liberia, and has settled therein a body of persons of the description aforesaid, who are now living there under a regular and organized government, the principles of which are set out in a constitution enacted on the 22nd day of November 1833, which said constitution has been adopted by the emigrants to the said territory, by going into the said territory to live under its provisions and by signing a declaration to support the same. And whereas, the said constitution for the present vests in the said Society certain Legislative powers: and whereas the said Society have proceeded under those powers to organize the government which now exists for the said territory, and which has been acknowledged and submitted to by all the residents in the said territory: and whereas, it appears from the foregoing facts that the said government is as legitimate sovereign and independent as any in the world neither the U. States nor any one

of them claiming or exercising any authority within the said territory: and whereas, it is proper that all persons visiting or settling in the said territory should understand distinctly the position in which they stand with relation to the said government; therefore

Be it enacted and ordained, and it is hereby declared by the Maryland State Colonization Society, that the government now subsisting in the territory called Maryland in Liberia agreeably to the constitution of 1833 is, and of right ought to be, sovereign and independent of all authority not provided in that instrument, and the said constitution and the laws, ordinances and treaties made under its authority, are the supreme law of the land; and that it is the duty of all persons who now are, or hereafter may be within the said territory to obey and conform to the same: and of all persons holding offices under the said constitution or laws to enforce obedience thereto from all persons whatever who may be within the said territory for any purpose or upon any pretext whatever without any respect to persons.

And be it further enacted, ordained and declared that all free coloured emigrants from the United States who now are or hereafter may be settled in the territory called Maryland in Liberia and all persons whatsoever born in the said territory owe allegiance to the government of Maryland in Liberia and to no other government

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