increase of Baltimore, the whole white population has increased but 5½ per cent, but half the rate of increase of the free colored population. In nine of the counties of the State, there has been a gradual decrease of the white population since 1790 and a rapid increase of the free colored population. In one instance, the white population has during this period nearly halved, and the free colored population more than doubled.

In the year 1790, there were 103,036 slaves in Maryland and the slaves increased until 1810 when there were 111,552 in the State; they afterwards decreased – now the number of slaves is 89,619.

The whole coloured population, slave and free, in Maryland in 1790, was 111,079 and it reached its greatest amount in 1830, when it was 155,932. It is now 151,556 the diminution having been caused in the face of the increase of the free coloured people, by the large exportation of slaves to the south during the last few years.

Thus statistics shew, that the free coloured population is increasing, and the slaves are diminishing; and if, as is probable but few slaves are sent to the south for some years to come, the next census may shew, that while the entire colored population is not diminished, yet that it is changing its character, and is becoming a free colored population; and when this change takes place, the relations of the white and colored population must necessarily cease to be of the harmonious

character which it has heretofore been; and that process will commence by which the stronger and more vigorous population displaces the weaker and the less active. The material increase of the whites, and the European immigration will fill the avenues of labour, and the colored population, yielding to the elastic pressure of a free white race, will be compelled of necessity to remove. Whether their removal takes place without conflict, depends upon the facilities and inducements to remove that may be held out to them. And to promote this, as the only means of obviating a state of things, which is otherwise inevitable, there is no agency known but colonization.

The increasing consequence too, and importance of the colony of Maryland in Liberia, and its claims to a continuance of countenance and support, and new additions of emigrants, demand a deeper interest and more general efficient and systematic action to carry out the intents of the Society and the State, than have heretofore been exercised in this behalf.

The subject is one that will not admit of neglect. It possesses a daily increasing interest. It calls for the deliberate consideration of the friends of Maryland and of humanity. It appeals to the patriot, the christian and the philanthropist, and to consider it, and to consider the subject of colonization, and all matters therewith connected, the Convention of the 3d of June next, has been called. The influence which the proceedings of this convention will exert upon the public, will depend much upon its being a full representation of the people of Maryland;

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

1841