increase, the situation of the Colony in a commercial point of view becomes more and more important.

As the point where the African coast changes its general direction from south-west to the north east, Cape Palmas is, of all other places, the place of rendezvous for any armed force which may be stationed in those seas. It is nearly central between the mouths of the Niger, and the mouths of the Senegal and Gambia. It is on the direct route from Europe and this country to the former river, and is a point made by all vessels bound for the great Bights of Benin and Biafra. It is hoped that it may, for these reasons, participate in the aid afforded incidentally to colonization by the general government in its efforts to suppress the slave trade.

The erection of a light house at Cape Palmas has often been suggested by the traders on the coast, and a subscription for the purpose has been offered by many of them. It is believed that before long this will be accomplished.

During the last year the United States' ship of war Cyane, Captain Latimer, visited Cape Palmas, and Capt. Latimer's account of the colony, transmitted to the navy department, furnishes the evidence of an impartial and intelligent eye-witness of the prosperity of the colony.

The population of the colony at this time is about five hundred and fifty, exclusive of the mission. All the emigrants are comfortably settled in homes of their own,

and are engaged in occupations that furnish them with support. Nearly all are more or less engaged in agriculture, which is the exclusive employment of many of them. There are a number of mechanics, some of whom were such before they left this country, and others have been made such by the exigencies of their new situation.

There is at Cape Palmas, one uniformed company of artillery, and another of infantry, and the colonists who do not belong to either of these, are enrolled in the general militia. The whole are well armed.

The last despatches from Cape Palmas announced, very much to the regret of the Board, the wish of the present Governor, J. B. Russwurm, to resign the situation which he has held for the last five years with so much credit to himself and usefulness to the society. The Board have declined for the present to accept Mr. Russwurm's resignation, for considerations which they have urged upon him, and which they believe will induce him to retain his place as Governor for another year.

The Board have been fully justified by experience in the policy which five years since led them to appoint a coloured man their agent in Africa and the Governor of colony. Indeed, those who at first doubted the prudence of the course pursued by the Board have since followed their example, and a coloured man is now Governor at Monrovia, as well as at Cape Palmas. All the officers, of all grades

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