perform their duties. It relates to a difference which has arisen between the Board and two of the Missionary Societies having missions at Cape Palmas. To its more perfect understanding it is necessary that the Board should go into some detail of their policy and views regarding the religious character and influences of the Colony.

The Board look upon colonization, in its results, as a great missionary scheme, as well as one of great political interest, by which a nation of Christian men is to be introduced into a continent of barbarians, and along with it the blessings of the gospel and the arts and learning of civilization; and they feel themselves especially called upon to prevent in Africa a repetition of the experience of America in the cases where civilization pressed upon the savages.

It is hoped that, as the natives, by becoming civilized and being taught Christianity, are elevated to the rank of the Colonists in these respects an amalgamation ~~as this respect~~ will take place between them ~~in this respect~~, as descendants of a common ancestry

But not only in this which may be termed the missionary view of the subject, have the Board desired to see a religious character given to their colony, but looking at the matter politically, they have felt that the laws of the colony would be obeyed, peace with the natives secured, and the general and individual prosperity promoted and guaranteed all the better by the prevalence of piety among the

people.

It would be idle to pretend, that the emigrants who leave this country for the colony are all of them fitted to be the founders of a nation. Many of them are newly emancipated slaves, many are free coloured people who have gone like rolling stones for change sake, and but comparatively few of the whole number, had more than the most simple rudiments of education when they embarked for Cape Palmas. Many indeed, left this country from a firm conviction that here was not their appropriate home; that sooner or later they must seek new abiding places, and, counting the cost, they hesitated not to seek a new home beyond the Atlantic. Still take the emigrants as a whole they would have appeared ill suited to the task which they have, under Divine protection, accomplished: and the fact that they have established a well ordered government, blessed with peace, and speaking comparatively, remarkable prosperity, is a consoling testimony that his favor is upon the enterprize which these weak hands have gone forth from us to promote.

With these views, it is therefore with very great satisfaction that the Board feel justified in saying that the colony is a religious community, nearly all of whose citizens of a suitable age are communicants of a Christian Church. And on a recent occasion, when it was asked, at a public meeting in Baltimore of a person who had been a resident at Cape Palmas and who was personally

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