acquainted with nearly all the colonists. "How many Church members are there in the colony?" The answer was "that it was far easier to enumerate those who were not Church members as they were few in number and he believed he knew them all."

As may be readily supposed from what is here said the Board have always encouraged the establishment of missions at their settlement, and one of their first acts after the colony was founded was to offer to all religious denominations every facility for missionary labour, - and now there are four Christian churches represented by their missionaries in the colony, that is to say, the Presbyterian, the Episcopalian, the Methodist Episcopal, and the Baptist - and the Hanover has just taken out two Catholic priests and a lay assistant to found a mission of that Church in the settlement.

The above missions are enumerated in the order in which they were founded. The Episcopal mission is, however, the largest; and while its main object is the civilization and christianizing of the heathen, yet it still extends its labours to the colonists, to whom it offers both education and religious instruction. The Presbyterian mission confines itself exclusively to the natives, and the Methodist and Baptist to the colonists. The Catholic mission, it is stated, is intended to afford to the Catholics of the colony the opportunity of attending the observances of their Church, which they have heretofore wanted.

If the Board have succeeded in expressing their opinion and action upon the subject of religion in the colony, and the influence of the colony, as a body of Christian men, upon the natives, it will be understood how deeply grieved they are to find that any subject of difference and discussion should have arisen between any of the missionaries and themselves. It was the purpose of the Board to have said nothing of this difference, - but, as it has been mentioned in the newspapers to the north, and elsewhere, publicly, it is proper to mention it here.

The 33rd section of the ordinance for the temporary government of Maryland in Liberia, makes all residents in the colony, between the ages of sixteen and sixty, liable to do military duty. From the operation of this law, which, in its terms, has no exceptions, the Board ex gratia, have exempted all white persons connected with the missions. But as the Presbyterian and Episcopal missions have prospered and increased, they have collected native pupils into boarding schools, within the above ages, and native teachers from other parts of the coast, for whom they have claimed the same exemption that white missionaries and lay agents enjoy. The claims of both are placed upon the ground, that the principles upon which their missions are established do not permit persons connected with them to bear arms, - and that it would deprive the missionaries of their influence with the natives, if it was believed that their teachers and

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

I. Minutes
A. Records of the Meetings of the Board of Managers

4. June 1838--October 1851

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