christian faith, and entirely self-dependent for the production of the means of living, and of self defence against all foreign aggression. The Society has witnessed with gratified pride the gradual onward march of their colony towards this consummation. A few years ago it was a handful of men, with but a precarious foothold upon a savage coast, now, through the munificence of the State, and the benevolence of the friends of Colonization, a nation is planted which gives promise at no distant day to achieve all that our most sanguine wishes could desire. In its commencement, in its continuance to the present, and for some time to come, it has needed, and will still require, the most zealous co-peration of its friends at home. Its onward march may be lengthened indeed, to our own progress in life. It has been nursed for a time in helpless and dependent infancy, but meanwhile strength has been accumulating in its growth and it needs but the first simple lesson of childhood to be taught that it may walk by itself, until in time it shall move in the assured stride of vigorous maturity. In this view the committee think that the time has arrived when the colonists may learn to be their own helpers, and the imposition of light duties upon imports, the revenues from which, will go into the colonial treasury, will afford the easiest and least burthensome mode of

teaching them to help themselves. Much difficulty has been experienced by the committee in determing upon the character of the duties to be imposed. Had they the knowledge which the experience of the colony will hereafter afford, they would undoubtedly have recommended a tariff of specific duties; but for the commencement of a policy, hereafter to be elaborated and improved by the enlightened experience of the colonists themselves, they recommend a uniform rate of 10 per centum, ad valorem, to be collected upon the ware-housing system, and payable in cash upon the withdrawal of the goods for consumption. In accordance with these views the committee have availed themselves of the services of Mr. Evans, to whom the Society is indebted upon many former occasions for like kindnesses, in drafting an ordinance, entitled, "an Ordinance to raise a revenue for the support of government in the colony of Maryland in Liberia, and for other purposes," which is herewith submitted. The board will perceive, that besides the imposing and collecting of duties, the ordinance provides for two subjects, to wit: the subject of licenses to trade, and that of a light-house duty. In reference to the first of these, the committee think the policy of the Society, adopted only to promote the ultimate good of the colonists themselves, requires that such restraint upon trade should be imposed as to keep it within that limit, in which alone it can benefit the colony. The limit alluded to, consists in a trade

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

1843