Department to the president of the Board, seems to the committee to be all that is now desirable.

The extension of the Avenue to Denah, is a matter which has more anxiously troubled the deliberations of the committee than any of which they have spoken. On the one hand the opening of the road brings within our reach the extensive and fertile country watered by the Cavally, and gives us the Cavally itself as a great highway of cheap transportation and a water power of incalculable value. With reference to the future wants of the colony, and though future, we hope not very distant these are considerations not lightly to be estimated, nor to be abandoned for the want of such present exertion as would be dictated by a little foresighted enterprize. On the other hand we are admonished by wisdom carefully to guard against such a diffuse extension of the colony as will impair its defensive strength in the hour of peril, and leave it the easy victim of a native invasion. In these conflicting views, both well entitled to serious consideration, the committee thinks that the subject had better be left to the discretion of Gov. Roberts and his council, with an emphatic declaration on the part of the Board of the policy of the Society in establishing the colony, and the strongest injunctions to carry out that policy as far as it may comport with the safety of the people. That this declaration should enforce strongly upon the attention of the government, that the present settle-

ment is only the germ of a nation which is to take root and flourish in Africa as part and parcel of the soil; that the primary and distinguishing character of the people is to be agricultural to encourage which, such direction should be given to labor as will tend to extend the affection which binds a man to the acre he tills, and throws around his hearth the attachments of a homestead, - that the extension of the settlement is to be made, not only with the object of promoting the present comfort and convenience of those already there, but of enlarging its capacity to receive and provide for others in still greater numbers, and especially with reference to a period of time when that which is now a dependent colony shall be an independent nation with power to increase in extent and strength, untrammelled by any restriction, which a narrower policy, dictated by our present feebleness, might impose; - that these elemental principles of the Society are to be kept constantly in view in all that the government does, and to be carried out to the utmost point consistent with the preservation of the defensive force of the colony; - and that no considerations of personal convenience on the part of those charged with the government, and no balancing of a supposed present benefit, against a more remote, but greater advantage, shall be permitted to control what is now declared to be fundamental in the policy of the Society.

With this understanding the committee do

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