so profitable and lucrative results, as trade; and knowing no other source to which they, could apply for aid at a moment when the operations of Government will need means to set it in motion, the people call on you for the furtherance of this object. They are sensible they can have no claims on your liberality as this to an unparalelled degree has been extended to them; but to what they now solicit your serious attention, is a loan of money. They feel assured that this, with other procurable amounts on the Coast, would fully satisfy all their hopefull anticipations as to the profitable results of commercial transactions for the successful operations of their Government;- and think that four thousand Dollars annually in such articles as you will find recommended will be an ample sum for their purposes during the early periods of their government on its change. Their condition and means of National Support, we need not enlarge on, as these are matters of which you are doubtlessly acquainted; but with funds at command they think considerable sums could be realized for general purposes, having a sufficiency in means to effect an honorable settlement with you.

In wishing this Colony to take the form of a free and independent Government, to the exclusion of all power heretofore vested in the Society, the people believe that none other than their general welfare has

influenced the Board to urge the importance of this change.— They are willing to try it and doubt not of it's happy effects upon the Community at large, should they find in you, Gentlemen, a conformity to their wishes as to the means from which it is calculated that a tolerable support can be given to the government. They believe, as you do, of it's influences on immigration; but, untill there be some considerable accessions to the population, they can devise none other, from which speedy and profitable gains, can be raised to meet the coming exigencies, than the plan already submitted. They hope that nothing they have done will meet the displeasure of the Board. The subject of monopoly was thought of, but it would not work successfully here from the fewness of Capitalists, and also from it's unsuccessfulness at Monrovia. There, the government failed in supplies of articles under that act, and the result was, that a tardiness and check was thrown on commerce, which provoked it's removal.

The steps we are now taking, grow out of a proclamation from your acting Agent, showing it is said, the intent of the board. In considering the matter of this proclamation, the first idea suggested to our minds, was, how is this government to be supported. To have remained inactive under the gathering of a storm growing more & more dark and lowering untill it broke full upon our heads, with the detriment consequent thereupon, would have been far

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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

5. February 1852—April 1864

1852