But we wish to avoid doing any thing which might give rise to any misapprehension whatever as to the views and intentions of the Society. We can only give a general assurance, (as a guarantee for the performance of which we refer to the whole past History of the Society,) that as far as our Duty will allow, we shall always be disposed to comply with the desires of, and to promote what our judgement may lead us to believe to be the best interests of the People of Maryland in Liberia. –

The Board have seen with much regret, the disposition evinced by the People to strike out of the New Constitution, the Prohibitory Articles on the use of, and traffic in ardent Spirits. This is a matter which the people must take the responsibility of deciding for themselves; and upon them, and upon their children will fall the consequences of their action – The Board however do earnestly hope that they will not now depart from a policy which was adopted at the very foundation of the Colony at Cape Palmas, and has ever since been incorporated in their Constitution & Organic Laws – We trust that they will reconsider the subject; and to call their serious attention to it, the Board have expressed their views in a Preamble and

Resolution, an attested copy of which will be delivered to the Commissioners.

To give you all the information in our power, Dr. Hall will forward to you Copies of the Agreement, of the Report of a Committee of the President, Managers of the Society, and of the Preamble & Resolutions above referred to, all of which were unanimously adopted by the Board. –

When the final steps are taken to organize your New Government, and to proclaim your Independence, it may be apprehended that ~~no~~ misrepresentations may be made by ill disposed parties, to the Natives under your jurisdiction, and that attempts may be made to persuade them that in any emergency you will have to rely exclusively on your own resources and can no longer look for aid to your friends in this Country. – Such an impression may cause trouble; to guard against which, we propose in due time to send out to them an address or proclamation, explaining to them that we have amicably transferred to the New Government the rights which we obtained by purchase and Treaties from the Natives; and that so far as they are concerned,

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

1854