of the United States, or as a County on the footing of the counties now composing the Republic of Liberia, it was deemed advisable, for many reasons that county annexation is more desirable. Whereupon, the people of the state of Maryland in Liberia, acting upon their constitutional rights, did petition the General Assembly of the State of Maryland in Liberia, asking the attention of the General Assembly to the subject, and requested that measures be adopted for obtaining an expression of the whole people by means of the ballot box. Whereupon, the General Assembly passed resolutions, which were approved by the Governor, authorizing polls to be opened for the purpose aforesaid; and whereas, County annexation was unanimously approved by the votes of the people, & on Wednesday the 24th day of February, 1857, the undersigned, namely, Boston T. Drayton Gov. of the State of Maryland in Liberia, Joseph T. Gibson, Lieut. Gov., and Thos Fuller, Senator, were chosen by the popular vote of the people, Commissioners with full power to confer with the Commissioner of the Republic of Liberia near this Government, & to settle & arrange with him, without further recourse, all matters necessary to the consummation of county annexation to the Republic of Liberia. The said Commissioner, however not being vested with potent full power from his Government for that purpose, declines the responsibility of negotiating a treaty of annexation; but, nevertheless,

gives the undersigned reason to hope & believe that no objection will be raised by his Government to county annexation; & that the people of this State will be received into the bosom of that Commonwealth, & have extended to them all the privileges & immunities now enjoyed or that may hereafter be enjoyed by any other County of that Republic.

While the undersigned would be glad to settle definitely one or two points, which might be thought desirable, before annexation, still they deem it more desirable, may important, in view of pressing circumstances, which threaten the tranquility of the state, & also involve the safety and happiness of the people — that annexation should not be delayed for these preliminaries.

But having full faith in the justice & magnanimity of the Government of the Republic, & of the people of that Commonwealth, we at once dissolve the Government of the State of Maryland in Liberia, & throw ourselves into the arms of the Republic.

The undersigned being sustained in this impression by the wish of the people of this state, propose to surrender into the hands of the Commissioner of the Republic, all & everything pertaining to the sovereignty of the State.

The undersigned, however, beg leave to submit —

1st. That the territory now composing the state of Maryland in Liberia shall be known as the County of Cape Palmas.

2nd. That, in addition to two Senators provided by the Constitution of the Republic for each County, the

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

1857