Although the first of the above orders contains a call upon the State Society directly, and the second seeks for information from it through the committee on colored population, yet the object of them both will perhaps be best answered by replying to them in one communication, which it is now proposed to do, and as nearly as practicable in the order of the enquiries.

The brevity which the first order demands would certainly best suit the officer of the Society charged with the preparation of the replies, but the order requires information to be clearly given on so many points as to put brevity almost wholly out of the question.

Liberia named in the order includes all that part of the West coast of Africa between Cape Mount and the country bordering on the river Cavally that has been colonized from the United States. To but a small portion of this have the labours of the State Colonization Society been directed,— being that part known as Maryland in Liberia,— on which has been planted, under the auspices of the State what is commonly called the Maryland Colony— Presuming that the orders refer to this more particularly the present replies will be confined to it.

The number of emigrants transported from Maryland to Maryland in Liberia will be found stated with all the particulars known to the Society, of ages, names and previous occupations in paper A. annexed to these replies. In this will be seen also the times of sailing and the vessels in which the emigrants embarked.

It is proper to remark here that the last expedition of November 1845 was an unusually small one, owing as is believed to the loss which the Society met with, in the death during the last summer of their Travelling Agent the Reverend Mr. Roberts. Upon this gentleman, the Board relied for the collection of emigrants, an arduous duty requiring particular knowledge of the different counties in the State, and an acquaintance with the class from which emigrants are generally obtained. In the course of many years service in this capacity, Mr. Roberts had obtained an amount of information necessary to his tasks which it was wholly impossible for his successor to acquire in time for the preparation of the last expedition.

Among the duties required to be performed under the general law of 1831, that of giving information to the free

colored people of the state in regard to Africa, and the purposes and advantages of Colonization is perhaps the most important, while at the same time it is the most difficult to perform in a satisfactory manner. It is a vast undertaking under any circumstances to change the home of a people. In the present instance all the efforts of Colonization are counteracted, and in the majority of cases successfully by the labours of abolition, which afraid openly to exhibit itself is unceasingly employed in filling the mind of the free colored people, otherwise disposed to emigrate, with false ideas in regard to Africa and the system which looks forward to their removal to that country. This has been often stated heretofore,— and it is repeated now to explain further, why in the absence of their accustomed agent the Society's last Expedition was so small.

As already said the colonists from Maryland are located in that part of Liberia which is known as Maryland in Liberia extending from Fishtown river to five miles east of the mouth of the Cavally, a distance of about forty miles including Cape Palmas. The territory of the Colony extends towards the interior from twenty to forty miles. Cape Palmas is the point at which the coast of Africa after pursuing a course from North west to South East turns suddenly to the Northward of East and afterwards has a general direction nearly due East to the mouth of the Niger. It is a point which all vessels make bound to that river and owing to natural causes must at some future day become of great commercial importance.

The principal settlement is at the Cape, where there is a clever village, from which the Maryland avenue extend toward the interior between four and five miles, its present termination being another village clustered around a stockade built for its protection. On either side of the avenue are located the farms of the colonist.

On arriving in Africa, each adult colonist male and female receives five acres of land, on condition of improving the same to a certain extent and according to their means— these lots are contiguous to those already occupied by old colonists. To a mechanic, or colonist of such other occupation as to require it, a town lot is given in lieu of the five acres of sufficient size to

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

III. Correspondence Sent
D. Latrobe Letter Book

1. July 1836—November 1852

1846