and that not of the fever, and a child under one year of age; and, of the second expedition of emigrants, by the Bourne, of fifty-five, not an adult had died at the end of nine months after their arrival, and but a few of the children, from diseases peculiar to infancy in any climate. And, on the 2nd of September, 1835, the agent, Dr. Hall, writes, that THERE IS NOT AN INVALID IN THE COLONY. This is no doubt to be attributed mainly to the salubrity of the site of the colony, aided by the attention and care which the agent has been able to bestow upon the limited number of emigrants that he received by each expedition. There are now, however, ample accommodations for one hundred and fifty new comers, and the board propose to send two expeditions, of that number each, during the ensuing year.

The board would here remark, that in collecting emigrants from among the free persons of colour in the State, the greatest difficulty they have experienced has grown out of the incredulity of these with regard to the accounts given to them of Africa. Even when their friends in Liberia have written to them, inviting them to emigrate, and speaking favourably of the country, they have believed that a restraint was upon the writers, and that the society's agents prevented any letter from reaching America, which did not speak in terms of praise of Africa. The ingenuity of the coloured people in this State devised a simple test of the reliance that was to be placed in letters, purporting to be written by their friends; which they have, during the last year or eighteen months, been putting into practice. When the emigrant sailed from the United States, he took with him one half of a strip of calico, the other half being retained by the person to whom he was to write when he reached Africa. If he was permitted to write without restraint, and if he spoke his real sentiments in his letter, he enclosed his portion of the calico, which, matching with that from which it had been severed, gave authenticity and weight to the correspondence. Many of these tokens, as they are called, have been received, and their effect has been evident in the greater willingness manifested by the free people of colour to emigrate; especially those of them who are at all well judging and well informed. Of those who have emigrated to Cape Palmas, a majority is of this description, and some of them are of a character and intellect which promise the happiest influences upon the young community whose numbers they have gone to swell. Many emigrants from Monrovia have joined the settlement at Cape Palmas, the heads of families going

down in the first instance, and preparing the necessary dwellings and commencing cultivation, and afterwards being joined by their wives and children. The addition thus made to the population is represented as useful and respectable. The number of the colonists, with those who sailed in the Fortune, is now about two hundred and fifty.

The board have already stated, that the colony of Maryland, in Liberia, is founded upon the temperance principle, and that agriculture is at present the primary object of attention. Of the wisdom of their course in these respects, the board find, in the state of things at Cape Palmas, every reason to be assured. The emigrants, to judge, not only from the despatches of the agent, but from the numerous letters which they have written to their friends in this country, are contented and happy, bearing up bravely against the toils incident to new settlers in any country, making no complaints of the prohibition of ardent spirit, and as soon as their acclimating illness is over, setting themselves to work, with good will, on their farms and gardens, and raising, in a short time, sufficient for their support. As yet, there are no stores in the colony, the only place where goods can be procured being at the agency. For six months the society supports the emigrants; after this time, if they require additional assistance in food or clothing, they pay for it by their labor. Thus they are able to supply themselves with what they cannot produce; such as tools, clothes, hardware, &c. and their labour enables the society to carry on those public works which are essential to the prosperity and protection of the settlement. In this way, a large stone warehouse of three stories in height, a stone wharf at the river landing, and a fortification at the extremity of the cape, have been built; the government house has been finished; three large buildings for the reception of emigrants, until they can put up shelters for themselves, have been erected; a public farm, to serve as well for a model farm, as to give employment to those who would otherwise be idle, has been established; aid has been given to the emigrants in clearing and fencing, and the general wants of the agency have been provided for:—while, on the other hand, no one has wanted; because labour could supply his wants,—and where labour has been considered as the substitute for a metallic circulating medium, no one has willingly been idle,—the more especially as ardent spirit, the parent of idleness and sin, is unattainable and unknown in the colony. In furnishing the agency with the means thus to prosecute

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The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47