the operations of the society, by giving employment for gain, at the same time, to the colonists, the board, instead of permitting their agent to draw bills on them, and with the proceeds of his draft to purchase the stock of goods he wanted from traders on the coast, at from one to two hundred per cent. advance, have procured the assortment in this country and sent it out with their expeditions, directing the agent to charge such advance only on the invoice as will prevent the society from losing on the articles sent. The system, thus indicated, has thus far proved so salutary, that the board propose to continue it, at all events for some time, and until the increasing population naturally creates the relation of buyer and seller among the emigrants themselves. In the mean time, agricultural habits are taking deep root, so that, under any contingency, the colony will be competent to support itself.

In their last annual report, the board announced with regret the death of Charles, one of the African princes, who had been committed to the society to be educated; and they stated, that they had sent back his companion, under the belief that it was the wisest course they could adopt to prevent misstatements, as to the cause of his death, from being made to the prejudice of the colony. The result, however, was yet in doubt, at the date of the last report. Since then, the board have received intelligence, which enables them to state, that the parents of the little boy have been satisfied of the good faith with which their child was treated, and that nothing has grown out of his loss to disturb the harmonious relations existing between the colonists and the natives.

The board annex to this report an Address from the settlers at Cape Palmas to the coloured people of Maryland. The board have had an interview with an individual, whose name is on the instrument, in the negative; and from his statements, they have every reason to believe, that the address is the voluntary and heartfelt production of the colonists themselves, uninfluenced by aught but their own honest conviction.

The board have ascertained that cotton thrives well in Maryland in Liberia, producing two pickings from the same stock in the same season. The first in July, and the second in December. They have directed their agent to introduce the culture of it generally; and they have little doubt, that it will become a profitable staple production to the colony before long. Palm oil is also produced already; and a good specimen of tobacco, from Maryland seed, has been sent home to the board. Coffee and the sugar cane can both

be cultivated—but as the first takes time, and the other requires expensive machinery, nothing has yet been done towards raising them. It is the purpose of the agent to commence their cultivation on the public farm, when the inducements to make the cultivation of them general, can be ascertained and appreciated. With a view to agricultural employment, the board furnishes the emigrants, who are not already provided, with suitable implements; and to each family, where there are females, a spinning wheel is given. The cost of this outfit is trifling, when compared with the importance of establishing among the colonists, in the beginning, a dependence, under providence, upon their own labour, and promoting habits of industry.

The board would here state, that they believe colonization is to be ultimately carried on, mainly, by voluntary emigration, at the cost of the emigrant himself. They do not believe, that the scheme can be otherwise successful. They have no expectation of seeing more done by the efforts of its friends than to make Africa as attractive to the coloured people of the United States, as this country is to the white emigrants from Europe, who daily throng its shores. And to this end, the board believe that colonization societies can operate efficiently, and that, so far, only, is their labour necessary; and that, when this is accomplished, and Africa is made thus attractive, impelled by far stronger motives than those which bring the European to the United States, the coloured people will emigrate in as great, if not a greater, ratio, and when they do so, the main object of the colonization scheme, looking to its ultimate consequences, will have been accomplished. Entertaining these views, the board of managers are deeply solicitous that there should be no failure in what they have undertaken, and they therefore lend what aid is in their power to the emigrants, at this time, to facilitate their easy and comfortable establishment in Maryland in Liberia.

In their last annual report, the board stated the intention of the American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions to establish a mission at Cape Palmas, and that Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had accordingly sailed for the colony. At the latest advices, Mr. Wilson and his wife were comfortably settled upon their farm at Fair Hope; Mrs. Wilson engaged in instructing a school of native children and the children of the colonists, and Mr. Wilson attempting the reduction of the native tongue to a written language. Both were well, and, to use the words of Mrs. Wilson, enjoying "*American health.*" Miss McAlister, a pious and benevolent lady of the

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47