Methodist Episcopal Church, sailed in the Harmony, with a view of becoming a teacher at the settlement. When last heard from, she was still in good health, and comfortably accommodated in the house of one of the settlers. Her letters expressed much satisfaction with what she had yet seen. Her mission is a voluntary one, unconnected with the society; but every attention has been directed to be paid to her, and the board anticipate much good from her efforts.

From the late accounts from their agent, the board learn with great satisfaction, that the schools of the colony are in an excellent condition, and well attended. The one kept by Mrs. Wilson is attended by natives, as already remarked, and the children of the emigrants, whose farm lots are in the vicinity of the mission house at Fair Hope. The other is attended by the children of emigrants chiefly, and is kept in the town of Harper, by Mrs. Thompson, an excellent teacher, a coloured woman of exemplary character, the wife of the colonial secretary. A third school will be opened by Miss McAlister, when she shall have recovered from her acclimating illness. The board congratulate the society upon the advantages, which they thus early possess in this most important particular; and they trust that they will be able, at all times hereafter, to make the facilities of education keep pace with the growth of the colony. To effect this, no efforts on their part shall be wanting.

In the third annual report, the board announced that the Rev. Mr. Gould, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, had been appointed special agent, and had sailed for Cape Palmas in the Bourne. It is now their melancholy duty to record his death. He arrived in Africa in good health, and after stopping a few days at Monrovia, proceeded to Cape Palmas, where he at once entered on the discharge of his duties, aiding Dr. Hall in the establishment of the emigrants, who went out with him, on the lots which were awarded to them. He underwent, of course, the acclimating sickness; but recovered from it. He left Cape Palmas, on his return to the United States, debilitated, but by no means so unwell as to cause alarm. Unfortunately, however, his voyage was a protracted one; his accommodations were indifferent, the water bad, and when hardly recovered from his African illness, he was obliged to undergo severe hardships. This proved too much for his constitution, and he died about two months after his arrival in the United States. He was a good and pious man, devoted to the cause of religion and

humanity, and his loss was truly lamented. It may not be out of place to state here, that he attributed his illness, on his return, far more to the privations of his voyage, than to the effect of the climate of Cape Palmas. The report which Mr. Gould made of the state of the colony, when he left it, was very gratifying, not only with regard to the soil, climate, and productions, but the satisfaction and well being of the emigrants. This account has since been amply corroborated by the testimony of the emigrants themselves, and others.

The relations of the emigrants with the natives are on a proper and friendly footing. For this state of things the board are indebted to the judgment, knowledge of African character, and firm courage of Dr. Hall. When he first set himself down among them, the novelty of the visit prevented bad feelings and aggressions. This, however, soon wore off, and an encroaching spirit manifested itself in many petty acts, on the part of the nearest native king, who at last fixed a price upon his rice which was exorbitant, and threatened to prevent the governor from sending elsewhere to obtain a supply. In vain Dr. Hall remonstrated. The king was inexorable, and said he would attack the governor's boat, whenever it set out for rice from a neighbouring town. Dr. Hall finally told the king that it was better to die like brave men, than to starve to death—that he would send his boat, as usual, for rice, and if it was interrupted war would be the consequence. He retired to the settlement, prepared for defence—stood to arms all night—and the next morning despatched the boat—when the king, instead of making an attack on it, came in person to the governor, and made an humble apology. This was the *crisis* of affairs between the colonists and natives; and the firmness of the governor turned it in favour of the former, Since then, the influence of the colonists has been hourly increasing—aided, most materially, by the presence and labours of the missionaries, Mr. Wilson and his wife. Upon one occasion, when, in obedience to a horrid superstition, a head man was condemned to prove his innocence of an imputed crime by drinking a poisonous decoction,—when the king, although he wished to save the victim, dared not interfere against the will of the greegree man or priest,—when the people, hugging their blind errors, had assembled by thousands to witness the execution of the sentence; when the usage of ages seemed to make the sacrifice inevitable, Dr. Hall, hearing of a traditionary law, that if a friend of the victim would take him by the hand, as he was about to drink, and agree to answer for him,

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47