the punishment, or trial, must be averted, hastened to the assembled crowd, forced his way, alone and unarmed, into the midst, took the devoted head-man by the hand, claimed the native law as his warrant, told the people that he would answer all charges against his friend, and carried the rescued wretch in safety to the American settlement. The custom, thus broken through, has since ceased to be enforced.

The board make these statements, in detail, because the fear of native violence has always been urged as an objection to the founding of a new settlement; and the board cannot better illustrate the relations which now exist, and the influence that has been obtained with the natives, than by the facts just related. At present the best understanding prevails with the natives around the settlement, and ceasing to regard the colonists as strangers and intruders, they look upon them as a portion of their own community, and manifest the greatest desire to obtain the arts and learning of civilized life.

In the last despatches of Dr. Hall, he expressed a desire to return to the United States in the coming spring; and the board consented that he should do so, inasmuch as he urged his state of health as requiring him to return after an absence of more than two years, during which time his situation has been one of unceasing toil and anxiety. In anticipation of Dr. Hall's return, Mr. Oliver Holmes has been sent out as special agent, with instructions to act as governor *pro tem.* after Dr. Hall leaves the colony. It is expected that Mr. Holmes will be with Dr. Hall for several months before the return of the latter, during which time he will become familiar with the system that Dr. Hall has pursued, acquainted with the native character, expert in the treatment of the acclimating fever, and generally fitted to conduct the society's concerns, when left alone at the colony. He is an intelligent, amiable gentleman, who has for many years been devoted to the colonization cause. The board have confidence in him, and believe he will prove himself competent to his situation.

During the last year, the young men of Baltimore formed an auxiliary society, under the name of "The Young Men's Colonization Society of Baltimore." They have published an excellent address to the public, and have taken measures which promise results of great usefulness to the State Society. It is by means of auxiliary societies that the plans and operations of the colonization scheme must be promulgated; and efficiency can be obtained in no

other manner than by organizing in auxiliary societies the friends of colonization throughout the State. The board hope and believe that the example set by the Young Men's Colonization Society of Baltimore, will be promptly followed in other places.

During the last year, also, the Rev. Mr. Wynkoop made a visit to the New England States, to explain there the principle of independent State action, upon which the State Society operates. This system has been already fully detailed in former reports; and is that, in brief, which leaves to each slave-holding State the exclusive control and management of colonization within its borders, repudiating all foreign and unsolicited interference, no matter from what quarter,—and which leaves to the non-slave-holding States the collection of funds, to be applied to the colonization cause in such of the slave-holding States as may ask for assistance, and pursue the system of colonization upon principles which the donors may approve. For this system Mr. Wynkoop found but little difficulty in procuring friends; it being generally admitted that, while it secured equal, if not greater efficiency than a general plan of operations could do, it at the same time removed all cause of jealousy on the part of the south towards the north, growing out of colonization—kept those States true to the cause for whose benefit it was devised—and afforded to the non-slave-holding States ample room for the employment of all the benevolence among them applicable to the subject. Mr. Wynkoop is still occasionally acting for the society; and, having been present at the purchase of Cape Palmas, possesses high qualifications as an advocate of the plans of the board. The board expect much from his zealous co-operation.

The board are gratified in being able to state, that their experience fully justifies them in the course which they have pursued. They are more than ever satisfied, that the plan of independent State action is the only true one. Nor are they alone in their opinions. The plan has received the sanction of some of the best and wisest individuals in other States. It is spoken of widely, even now, as the 'Maryland plan.' Upon a recent occasion, at the annual meeting of the American Colonization Society in Washington, its merits were discussed, and it was most eloquently explained and vindicated by one, who had been among the first and most efficient of the promoters of colonization, while yet there had no foothold been obtained in Africa—one whose intimate and long acquaintance with the old system made his sanction of tenfold authority. It is

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47