'that any action upon the subject of slavery belongs exclusively to the States in which the institution exists, and that each slave-holding State in the Union should deprecate and prevent any foreign and unsolicited interference both as unauthorized and impolitic;' and as they believe the question of colonization to be destined to have the most direct and important bearing upon that of slavery; they also hold, that in each slave-holding State the former subject should likewise be under the exclusive management and control of that State, or of its own citizens, whose vital interest may be placed at stake, although the State society solicits also the aid and co-operation of such citizens of other and non-slave-holding States as may approve of its objects and proceedings. The board cannot but attribute to a rigid adherence to these principles the exemption which Maryland has enjoyed from excitement upon a question which has latterly produced so much agitation in different quarters of the Union. Whilst this excitement has been strongly felt both in the slave-holding and non-slave-holding States of this great confederacy, Maryland, though situated on the border line dividing those States, and therefore peculiarly exposed, as it might be presumed, to the effects which the opposite views and policy of her neighbours might produce, has pursued her own course in tranquility and security. Offering, both as a slave-holding State, and as containing within her limits a greater number of free people of colour than any other State in the Union, a fair field for the operations of those whose labours in other States have called forth the heaviest denunciations and the highest penalties of the law, Maryland has just cause to pride herself upon the wisdom of that protective policy, whose tranquilizing results have been so marked and happy; and by a strict observance of which alone, can the great scheme of removing and colonizing the people of colour as they may attain their freedom, be successfully and vigorously prosecuted, without the risk of producing evils of the most serious character.

In the last annual report of the board, it was stated, that the establishment of a colony at Cape Palmas, by the Maryland State Society, had been eminently prosperous. The board are happy to say, that continued success attends the operations of that society, to whose communication, herewith submitted, they beg leave to refer for full details on the subject.

The board have had the honour, heretofore, to state the considerations which led them to the conclusion, that they could best

perform the duty entrusted to them, of 'making preparations at Liberia, or elsewhere, for the reception and accommodation of the persons to be removed,' by availing themselves of the agency of the Maryland State Colonization Society, and enabling that body to establish their colony at Cape Palmas. The experience of the board having confirmed them in the views they entertained, the system adopted by them has been persevered in; and they have accordingly advanced to the society, during the past year, the sum of $5,273 . 88 to aid in defraying the expenses they had necessarily incurred, in the establishment of a new settlement in a distant land.

During the past year, two vessels have been despatched by the society to the colony, in one of which were twenty-seven emigrants, and in the other thirty-nine. Although this is a much smaller number than it was contemplated to send, yet they were of a class of the most desirable character, and will, it is believed, promote greatly the prosperity of the colony, and its advancement to that point at which it will not only require no further aid from this country, but will, on the contrary, hold out such powerful inducements to the coloured population of the State to emigrate to it, that all their own energies will be devoted to the attainment of the means of removal.

During the coming year, it is expected that the emigration will be much larger, as the means of the colony are now adequate to the immediate reception of a large increase to its population.

The number of manumissions in the State, reported to the board since the last annual report, is two hundred and ninety-nine, making the whole number reported as manumitted, since the passage of the act of 1831, eleven hundred and one.

The amount drawn from the treasury, during the year, is ten thousand dollars, a full account of the disbursement of which is herewith respectfully submitted. The vouchers for these expenditures, together with all the books and papers of the board, they hold subject to any examination which your honourable body may be pleased to direct.

All which is respectfully submitted.

PETER HOFFMAN,
CHARLES HOWARD,
CHARLES C. HARPER.

December 31*st*, 1835.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47