of which have been forwarded to the 'Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas,' during the present year, by the 'Board of Managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society.'

In my report to your board of the 15th December, 1834, I gave it as my opinion, that large numbers of the free people of colour of the State, were opening their eyes to the folly and madness of Northern doctrines, heretofore so rife among them, and were becoming satisfied that their *best* and *truest* friends, were among those, who have, for many years, advocated colonization as the only practicable mode of placing them, by gradual degrees, in a state of political and national independence.

This opinion, after the lapse of twelve months, I see no cause to change, but, on the contrary, much to strengthen and confirm it.

The most prominent, and at the same time, gratifying evidence of the views and feelings of that class of our population, in regard to the doctrines of Northern fanatics, is found in the fact, that while other States, both in the North and the South; have been agitated to a degree of excitement, almost unexampled in the history of the Union, Maryland with a free coloured population, exceeding by 30,000 the whole colored population of New England (six States), and by something like seven thousand more than any other single southern State, has been, and still is, perfectly calm and unmoved. This state of feeling on the part of her coloured population, is justly attributable to the increasing convictions among them, that the citizens of Maryland, are *now*, as they *always have been*, their *truest* and *best* friends. The policy of the State in regard to them, as indicated by the acts of Assembly of 1831–2, is being better and more distinctly understood by them.

The enclosed list, although it does not shew so large a number as it was hoped would have emigrated to the colony, during the present year, contains the names of several heads of families, whose intellectual and moral worth, will be of *immediate* and great importance to the prosperity of the colony, and by consequence, essentially available in promoting a more rapid migration to it hereafter.

Recent letters to your agent, from several of the most intelligent emigrants who went out in the schooner Harmony, last June, together with various letters to his care, to their relations and friends in the State, present a most interesting and cheering view of their satisfaction and prospects. I annex a few extracts from one. The writer went from Talbot County, E. Shore, and up to the time of his leaving, sustained an unimpeachable character for integrity and uprightness:—'I can say that I have realized all I expected; the soil has the appearance of being good, the climate is pleasant, and altogether, our prospects are flattering. My children will go to school to Mrs. Wilson, it being nearer to us than the school at the Cape. We have a good church, and Mr. Wilson preaches for us. The whole of our company are satisfied and pleased. I hope

you will go on in the work of Colonization. It is the cause of God and the hope of benighted Africa.'

The circulation throughout the State, of such letters, cannot but have the happiest effect in promoting an increased spirit of emigration among the coloured people, and at the same time, will, no doubt, increase the desire, so generally felt and expressed among our white citizens, to see the scheme of State Colonization carried on to consummation.

I am happy to be able to state, that in my travels during the present year, through many counties of the State, on both Shores, I have not met one single opponent to the scheme, or to the provisions of the Act of Assembly to carry it into effect. It is true, it has several times been suggested that the emigration from the State to the Colony was too slow; this suggestion, however, you will perceive, originated from a desire to accelerate, rather than retard the scheme. The magnitude of the undertaking, as I have invariably stated, in answer to such suggestions, renders it the more essentially necessary in order to its satisfactory success, that great care should be taken in the selection of suitable materials, with which to lay the foundation of a republic, such as Maryland in Liberia is intended to be, and must be, in order to answer the just expectations of the projectors and supporters of the law of 1831–2. The existence of this Colony together with its flattering prospects, is the best commentary that can be given upon the policy and benevolence of the Act referred to: and the period cannot be a great way off, before thousands of the colored people of Maryland will flock to it, and multitudes of the natives be found rejoicing through its instrumentality in the lights of science, religion and equal government.

Respectfully submitted, by your obd't serv't,

W. McKenney, *Agent.*

Extract from the Address of the Young Men's Colonization Society, to the Young Men of Maryland.

"About four years since, after the bloody tragedy which had been acted in an adjoining State, the eyes of the people of Maryland were turned to the subject of Colonization. They felt that they could not any longer remain passive upon this great subject: that it was pressing itself upon their attention by every consideration which could be addressed to them as citizens, philanthropists and Christians. They had long felt the evil of slavery, and they now saw a day had come when effort must be made; they felt that a crisis had arrived in the affairs of this country and this part of her people, which must be met by prompt and vigorous action. They saw with what rapidity that day had rolled round, which the early friends of African Colonization had seen only in the distant future. They saw that a storm was gathering, which, unless widely dispersed and its

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47