causes removed, would burst over this land, and end only in the extermination of a part of its population.

Maryland had been taught a lesson, written in characters of blood, in the scenes which had been witnessed, almost within sight of her borders, and her people determined to profit by the instruction. They believed and they rejoiced in the belief, that if African colonization could succeed the day was not far distant when Maryland would take her stand by the free states of the north, and the sun as he traversed the firmament and visited with his genial rays her smiling hills and fruitful valleys, would not shine upon one, around whom still lingered the chains of slavery. Oh! it was a cheering and animating thought, that here, a path was opened to them, to escape from the evils of slavery, and that a light was breaking in upon this subject, so glorious, as to dispel the doubts of the most desponding, and to animate all with a noble perseverance in this cause. From her peculiar situation among the states of the union, the people of Maryland had many opportunities of contrasting the happiness and prosperity of the slave-holding and non-slave-holding states; and they felt convinced, that, if a practicable scheme could be devised which, while it sacredly respected the rights of property, would remove from among them the free people of colour, that the manumissions for removal would be frequent, and the number of slaves would rapidly diminish. Such a scheme they found in African colonization, and they determined to embrace it. The Maryland State Colonization Society was formed and in its commencement, it determined to profit by the experience of the parent society; an experience which had been gained at the cost of so many valuable lives. The better to enable them to do this, they determined to purchase a tract of country on the African coast, and to found a separate and independent colony. Their agent, Doctor Hall, succeeded in February, 1834, in purchasing a beautiful and healthy tract of country at Cape Palmas, and there is one remarkable circumstance attending this purchase, that a part of the consideration required by the kings of the country, was, that within a year, a free school should be established in each of the principal towns. The colony was there founded, and although but eighteen months have elapsed, it is now in a rapid state of progress, and is perhaps in a more flourishing condition than its most sanguine friends could have anticipated in so short a space of time.

It has a Constitution by which the principles of a free government are guaranteed to the colonists, and which secures to every emigrant and his descendants, the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. A Constitution drawn up by an early and ardent friend of colonization, whose proud reflection will be in after years, that he was instrumental in laying broad and deep, the foundations of liberty on a continent where savage tyranny had for so many ages made her abode. The section of country chosen, presents every possible advantage to the agriculturist: it

is well wooded and watered, with a surface slightly undulating, and produces in great abundance almost every variety of vegetables, fruits and grain. It abounds in many kinds of game; and judging from the numerous herds of cattle which surround every native village, must be one of the finest grazing countries in the world. It has a splendid river, nearly a mile in width, traversing its southern border, and from the safe harbor which it affords, Cape Palmas must eventually become a place of great commercial importance. Under such circumstances and with such advantages the Maryland Society have commenced their noble work, and in their last annual report, they tell us 'they have sent forth a little band of emigrants to gain another foothold on the Liberian coast, to erect there a beacon, glorious alike to the sight of the native and emigrant African, as it speaks to the one, the language of civilization and the gospel, and calls on the other, to come unto his father's home:' they tell us they have surmounted the most difficult part of their undertaking, and that every thing invites them to advance, and they appeal to all the friends of freedom in this wide country for pecuniary aid. Shall that appeal be made in vain? If it has been answered by the old and middle aged, will not the young men of Maryland send in their response with one unanimous voice? '*We come, we come:*' we come to aid you in your glorious undertaking; we come to join you in that work, which, while it regenerates one continent, will perpetuate to the other; all the rich blessings which a kind Providence has bestowed upon it. In answer to that appeal, the Baltimore Young Men's Colonization Society has been formed, with a determination on the part of its members, to exert themselves for the support of the parent society, and they seek the aid and co-operation of every young man in the state. This subject has strong claims upon you as citizens. As citizens of this fair republic, do you not wish to see every stain wiped from her escutcheon, that she may stand without reproach before the nations of the earth?—Do you not desire to see that day roll round, when your country will truly be the 'land of the free" as she has always been "the home of the brave?' Do you earnestly seek to transmit to your children, that home and that liberty, and that happiness, for which your fathers endured the suffering pain and toil of a long and bloody war, making the tented field their dwelling place, and the bare earth their couch of glory? Do you not pray, that the blessings you enjoy, may be perpetuated to your posterity; and that your government may ever remain a beacon to guide other nations in the road to freedom? If so, we say to you, cherish African colonization. Look abroad over the face of your land, and say, is there no cloud in the heavens?—Is there nothing that tells you that danger is nigh, and that there is an evil within your borders which must be removed? Recollect that the storm which sweeps along the coast of Africa with such resistless fury, as to bury many a proud bark beneath the waves of the broad Atlantic, comes from a single speck in the heavens.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47