Form of a Constitution for an Auxiliary Society.

1st. This Society shall be called ————, and shall be auxiliary to the Maryland State Colonization Society.

2d. The object to which it shall be exclusively devoted, shall be to aid the parent institution in the colonization of the free people of colour of this state, on the coast of Africa—and to do this not only by the contribution of money, but by the exertion of its influence to promote the formation of other societies.

3d. An annual subscription of ———— shall constitute an individual a member of this society; and the payment, at any one time, of ————, a member for life.

4th. The officers of this society shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, and —— Managers; Secretary and Treasurer, to be elected annually by the society.

5th. The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be *ex officio* members of the Board of Managers.

6th. The Board of Managers shall meet to transact the business of the society ——.

7th. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the society, as well as take charge of its funds, and hold them subject to an order of the board of managers.

8th. The secretary of the society, shall conduct the correspondence, under the direction of the board of managers, both with the parent institution and other societies, and shall keep a record of the names of the members.

CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.

At a meeting of the board of managers of the Maryland State Colonization Society, held on the 22d of November, 1833, Mr. Latrobe, from the committee on the subject of a Constitution and form of government and digest of laws for the territory that may be acquired by said society in Africa, to be called Maryland in Liberia, reported the following form of a constitution, which, after being read and considered, was, on motion by Dr. Baker, unanimously adopted:

The Maryland State Colonization Society of Maryland, one of the United States of North America, to all persons to whom these presents shall come—*greeting:*

Whereas, the Maryland State Colonization Society, desirous to hasten, as far as they can, the period when slavery shall cease to exist in Maryland, and believing that this can best be done by advocating and assisting the cause of colonization, as the safest, truest, and most efficient auxiliary of freedom, under existing circumstances, have determined to establish a settlement, or settlements, of free coloured people and emancipated slaves, under the auspices and control of the state society, at or

near Cape Palmas, on the west coast of the continent of Africa, to be called Maryland in Liberia: And whereas, it is not less the desire of the society that the evil of slavery should be removed from Maryland, than that the emigrants to Africa should find their happiness and prosperity promoted by their change of home; and that, through their instrumentality, the blessings of civilization and the gospel should be extended to a benighted land: And whereas, acting with these views it becomes the duty of the state society to afford to the settlements which they may cause to be established, a system of equal laws, that shall secure to every emigrant, and his descendants, the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—Therefore, be it known, that the Maryland State Colonization Society do hereby solemnly enact the following 'Constitution,' as the basis and foundation of the government of any, and every settlement, or colony, which may be established as aforesaid, under their auspices and control, in Africa, ratifying and confirming the same, according to its tenor, to all emigrants to such settlements, and their descendants, so long as the powers of government shall continue to be exercised by the Maryland State Colonization Society.

Art. 1. The Maryland State Colonization Society shall have full power and right, from time to time, as they may think fit, to make and ordain rules, regulations, and ordinances, for the government of the territory acquired by them in Africa, called Maryland in Liberia, not repugnant to the provisions of this Constitution, until the state society shall withdraw their agents, and yield the government wholly into the hands of the people of the territory.

Art. 2. Every emigrant of full age, before he or she shall be received in Maryland in Liberia, shall read or have read to him or her this Constitution, and sign a declaration to support the same, and they shall, in so doing, bind themselves so refrain from the use of ardent spirits, except in case of sickness.

Art. 3. No person shall hold any office in the said territory, who either uses ardent spirits, with the above exception, or traffics in it; and the state society are pledged to carry the principle of abstaining from it, and preventing a traffic in it, into the local government of the territory, and have all the powers necessary for that purpose.

Art. 4. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government, and the happiness of mankind, schools, and the means of education, shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the natives; their land and property shall not be taken from them, without their consent; and in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless it may become necessary to do so, to repel aggressions on their part: but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall, from time to time, be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47