satisfied that their course has been the proper one. Ultimately, the government of the colonies on the coast of Africa must pass into the hands of the colonists, and the tutelage of the societies in this country must cease. This is admitted on all hands. In the United States the coloured people are habituated to seeing all power in the hands of the whites. Here they know no other rulers. Hitherto, in Africa it has been the same. The power there was still in the hands of a white man; and the impression, so adverse to a proper exercise of their full capacities for self-government, was still maintained, that the duties of agent and governor could only be discharged by one of a different colour from the colonists themselves. The great difficulty to be overcome, in fitting the colonists for the task of self-government, was inspiring them, not a few ambitious and self-important individuals, but the whole mass, with the belief that they were competent to it; and this could never be done, while the system of white overseers, to which most of them were accustomed in the United States, was kept up in Africa. The smaller the community too, the easier the Board thought it could be governed by a coloured man, the less difficult would be its affairs to manage so far as he was concerned, and the fewer would be the malcontents and opposers of his authority. As the small colony also grew to be a large one, the new emigrants would find an order of things established, against which opposition would be useless, and would fall at once into the habits and convictions of the already established colonists. Under all these circumstances therefore, and especially as the Board found an individual fitted in all respects for the station, they determined, while their settlement was yet young and its numbers were few, to appoint a coloured agent, and accordingly they selected Mr. Russwurm.

Various causes, beyond the control of the Board of Managers and which it is here unnecessary to enumerate, have hitherto prevented so full a canvass of the State as could have been desired, and the effects of a want of very active effort have been apparent in the small number of emigrants that have sailed for Cape Palmas during the past year. By an arrangement with the Young Men's Society, however, this difficulty will be avoided in future. The agent of the State Society, the Rev. Ira A. Easter, who is also the agent of the Managers of the State fund, has had assigned to him all the duties connected with the operations of the society; such as the shipment of emigrants, the care of the local correspondence, the superintendence and keeping of the society's books,—that require

the presence of an agent in the office in Baltimore; while the agent associated with him, the Rev. John H. Kennard, has assigned to him the duty of travelling from one part of the state to another, spreading information, procuring emigrants, and attending to the preparations for their departure, and the formation of auxiliary societies wherever practicable. This combination of effort by the two agents here mentioned, will secure a constant and vigorous prosecution of the plans of the State Society. The prospects for a large expedition in the spring are very flattering; and there is every indication that the prejudices of the coloured people, and especially those who are free, are gradually yielding to the conviction, that here they are at the best but wanderers and outcasts, without the prospect of moral or political aggrandizement, and that Africa is their true and appropriate home.

The Board of Managers confidently anticipate the time, and that not far removed, when the voluntary emigration of the coloured population of the United States to Africa, will equal that which takes place from Europe to this country. All that is necessary to bring this about, is to make Africa as attractive to the coloured people as America is to the European, which is to be done by the establishment there of happy, healthy, well-governed, and prosperous communities, capable of self-support and self-defence. This is now in rapid progress. Three years since Cape Palmas was a wilderness, with untutored savages for its inhabitants. It is now the boast of the Western coast. It has a population of three hundred emigrants, and four christian churches have established there their missionary settlements. With the colony at Bassa it is the same. The state of Mississippi is about founding another colony, and doubtless with equal success. When colonies shall thus be multiplied, and when the trade that must be the consequence is seen by the coloured people in this country, Africa will then be thought to offer the same inducements to them for emigration that the United States does to the European; and when this is the case, it will not be many years before the free coloured population, and such of the slaves as become free, will deem it a privilege and not an exile, to emigrate to the colonies of Liberia. Were the same emigration to take place from the United States which now takes place from Europe, four times the present annual increase of the coloured population would be annually removed—and at that rate the objects of colonization would before long be accomplished. That such may be the result, it especially behooves all the friends

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47