of colonization to be active and untiring in their efforts; and to be satisfied that every thing which tends to make the colonies in Africa attractive, is directly in aid of the scheme which they support, even though the number of emigrants sent there in any one year should be less than they would have desired. Of the justice of the reasoning here used, the Board of Managers are convinced by their experience; and they feel satisfied that the time is now at hand when the liberal and enlightened policy of the state in regard to colonization is to be realized; and when the colony of Maryland in Liberia, planted by her bounty, will become the home of thousands of voluntary emigrants from Maryland in America.

Another year's experience since the last annual report, has still further corroborated the Board of Managers in their conviction of the superiority of the plan of independent state action in regard to colonization over any other that has been suggested. They contend and uphold that the subject of slavery is one that concerns exclusively the states in which it exists, and they deprecate and would resist any interference with it by the general government, by other states, or by societies, or individuals out of the state of Maryland. Especially do they regret that any attempt should be made to invoke the action of congress on the subject, well assured that to do so would only be to make colonization the theme of political contention, to be used as the means of renewing, in the national legislature, those fiery and unnatural discussions whose tendency is evil, and whose only effect must be to weaken the bonds which hold the states together, by sowing enmity and distrust between the different members of the confederacy. While the subject of slavery, and colonization as connected with it, are made matters of state concernment exclusively,—while all extraneous influences and interferences are repudiated and resisted, and while the discussion above alluded to is prevented from taking place in the halls of congress, the subject of slavery can never become the one on which our existence as a united people will depend. Otherwise, it is impossible to foresee the consequences.

The views here taken have been fully sustained by the policy of Maryland, and the conduct of the State Society throughout. The appropriation law was based upon the principle of independent state action. Maryland has now her separate colony on the coast of Africa; and the State Society exercise exclusively all the powers of government within it. In the late message of the executive of this state, the same views are taken; and the Board of Managers trust

and hope, that, the day is not far distant when colonization will be in the hands of the states exclusively, and when all matters of general concern will be settled by a convention of delegates from the state societies, the unity of whose action will be confined to Africa alone, while in this country each state will be left to pursue her own policy by the means that she considers most appropriate to her condition.

The Board of Managers must not be considered as saying any thing in disparagement of the American Colonization Society. To this body are we indebted for that proof without which colonization would be still an untried scheme. The American Colonization Society has proved the practicability of establishing colonies on the coast of Africa, capable of self-support, self-defence, and self-increase, and has thereby won the praise and the everlasting thanks of the friends of Africa, of her sons and daughters, and of humanity and philanthropy. But having done this, the appropriate functions of that society are at an end. The discordant views entertained among the friends of colonization themselves thoughout our wide country, forbid the idea of such an unity of sentiment and action in any general society as is necessary to entire success; while this very discord, which in the nature of things it would seem impossible to sooth, indicates most apparently a system of independent state action as the only one by which colonization can be successfully prosecuted.

Since the last annual report, large acquisitions of territory have been made around the settlement at Cape Palmas, and the State Society now owns both sides of the Cavally, a broad and noble river, from its mouth to the town of Denah, about thirty miles from the ocean. The agent, Dr. Hall, ascended the river to the cataracts at Fayè and reached the mountain range which here runs parallel to the coast. He describes the country as of inexhaustible fertility, beautiful in the extreme in appearance, and thickly peopled by a population that manifested great kindness to him on all occasions, and an anxious desire to enter into treaties with him, for the purpose of having schools established at their respective towns, and participating in the benefits of a trade with the colony. The Rev. Mr. Wilson, the missionary at the Cape, subsequently visited a part of the same region of country, and his account fully corroborates that given by Dr. Hall.

The relations with the natives in the immediate neighbourhood of the colony are now of a friendly kind. On several occasions

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47