member of the colony, has come to my knowledge, nor in fact has the conduct of any female member been such as to subject her to scandal of this nature. No case of criminal prosecution has occurred, except for theft, and in those the articles purloined were of slight value, and of such a nature and under such circumstances, that the transactions would not have been noticed in any long established community of people. This trait of character, the disposition to pilfer, marks the majority of the lower class of the colonists; and is an exception to the character here given of them as a body.

They are a *civil, orderly,* people. No properly established law of the colony has ever met with open opposition; no violence has ever been threatened to the lawful authorities. No instance of riot or general uncontrollable excitement has occurred, and no instance of open quarrelling, or fisticuffs, has come to my knowledge, directly or indirectly, since the first establishment of the colony.

They are a *temperate people.* And for this they may thank the spirit of the times and the wisdom of their legislators. I need not say that no case of intemperance, or of *intemperate* temperate drinking, has ever been witnessed among them. The letter of the constitution and of the ordinances has been most strictly observed; and the world may here see a people, a government, an infant nation that was formed, nourished, and is supported and kept together without the artificial stimulus of grog. There are men in the colony whom I suspect of having clandestinely obtained small quantities, and used it privately; but were the question to be put to-morrow to the assembled colonists, 'Shall ardent spirits be admitted into the colony, except as a drug to be administered by the physician,' it would be voted down to a man. Not an individual would dare propose such a resolution who had the least regard to his reputation, let him be ever so devoid of patriotism.

They are an *industrious people.* I say in comparison with the like people, under like circumstances, they are industrious. But compared with the New England farmers they are not so; at least but a few of the colonists perform as much labour as their strength and constitutions admit of; say of this class there are ten or twelve. But of the truly lazy drones, loungers, or sun-baskers, we have but three or four. The majority go to regular daily labour, and look to no other means for support.

They are a *contented, happy people.* This assertion must also be understood in a comparative sense. The amount of enjoyment any one is capable of experiencing, must bear some proportion to his moral and intellectual improvement. That even a majority of the inhabitants of Maryland in Liberia are truly happy, or are abundantly supplied with what is generally thought conducive to happiness and contentment; or that they have not trials, difficulties, and hardships to encounter, is not true. Nor is it true that a majority of them so fully appreciate the

advantages of their situation, as would men of different early habits, superior mental cultivation, and of course superior range of thought. But still they do so highly appreciate these inestimable rights and privileges, that by no worldly consideration could they be induced to forego or forfeit them. Independent of the love of liberty, that strong attachment which the pioneers of civilization ever feel for the country of their adoption, would effectually exclude from the breasts of the most intelligent and patriotic, any longings for their transatlantic home. These feel the high responsibility of their situation; that they have a mighty work in hand, that perhaps the well-being and even existence of a nation is dependent on the course and conduct of each and every individual. Reflections like these produce not bare quiet and contentment, but a patriotic enthusiasm, the highest state of mental enjoyment. But this high toned ardour, I regret to say, is experienced by few, hardly sufficient to keep a good majority up to the mark, and substantiate my declaration.

BRIEF HISTORY OF INDIVIDUAL COLONISTS.

I have thus endeavoured to sketch the general character of our colonists, at least the essentials. I have described them as they are, as they have deported themselves since their first coming together as a people. I have endeavoured to show you what they *have done,* and what they *are collectively.* But to these general statements and conclusions, as I before remarked, there are many striking exceptions, exceptions which should be well noted and accounted for, and this cannot be better effected than by delineating to you in a brief manner the character, or rather the history of a few individual colonists. I shall take the extreme cases of the different classes, that you may be able to judge what causes the prosperity and happiness of some, and the misery and depression of others; and that you may see how much is dependent on the colonists themselves, and what is irremediable or dependent on circumstances beyond human control.

I would mention names, but it would be unjust, inasmuch as but one or two of each class will be introduced, and the second best and second worst would not receive the approbation and the censure which they deserve.

A. a man of 45, with a wife and five female children, all under 12 years of age, was one of the first settlers. Himself and family suffered less from the fever than others of the same expedition, although their attacks were as violent and have been as frequent, yet they implicitly followed advice with regard to diet and general conduct. He brought about fifty dollars to the colony, which, with his own labour, built him a good dwelling house. He is no mechanic, and never received over seventy-five cents per day for labour. His family are well fed and clothed, and are constantly attendant on the school. They are further advanced than others of their age and former advantages in the colony.

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47