11. If a man burn a house at any other time, or a house where nobody are to sleep, or pull down a house which is not his, or break into another man's house because he wants to steal, he must go to jail and be punished as the judge says.

12. If a man, or two men, or many men, take a man, or woman, or child, and sell them for slaves, they must be hung.

13. If a man hurt another by beating or cutting him very much, he must go to jail and be punished as the judge says.

14. If a man take away another man's wife, or use her as his wife, he must go to jail and be punished as the judge says.

15. If a man have one wife, and while she lives take another wife, so as to have more than one wife living, he must go to jail and be punished as the judge says; besides, he must give to both wives and their children a house to live in, and enough to eat and drink as long as they live.*

16. If a man steal, he must give back what he stole, and besides he must go to jail, and be punished as the judge says.

17. If a woman do any thing wrong, she must be puuished the same as a man.

18. If a man kill or hurt a woman, he must be punished as if he had killed or hurt a man.

19. If a man or woman do any thing which these or any other laws say is wrong, the constable, when he is told of it by any body, must catch the man or woman that has done wrong, and bring them before the judge. If the constable will not do so, he must pay for the wrong and be punished as the judge says. If he looks good and tries to find the man or woman that did wrong, but cannot find them, he must not be punished.

20. If a man or woman under one king, steal or hurt a man or woman under another king or governor, the king under whom the man or woman is that did so must make that man or woman that did the wrong pay for it, and be punished besides. If the king will not do this, he must pay for the wrong that has been done himself.

21. When any man or woman is said to have done any wrong, the judge must hear what every body says that was there or knew any thing about it, and if he thinks the man or woman has done the wrong,

* Simleh Balla, who perfectly comprehended the laws as they were read and explained to him, stopped the reader at this one, with the words, 'no good for my countryman.' 'Why not, Simleh?' 'Me tell you. I got four wives. Spose I send three away, and keep Bana—she pretty—she young—no man give 'em rice—no man take care of 'em—they die—pickaninny die too—no good law that.' There was so much reason in his objection, that an immediate reply was not made to him, and after a short pause, he went on—'Me tell you. Spose that law no good law for me—well—that law good for my son—he pickaninny now—got no wife—by-umby he want wife—I say, King Freeman say you only have one wife—so all men. When I got my four wives, I no saba that law. When my son get wife, hesaba law—he do what law say. Yes, that good law for time come.' Simleh's idea of an *ex post facto* law was as perfect as it could be, and the 15th article of the code will be explained by him to King Freeman as prospective only in its operation.

which is called being GUILTY, he must punish the man or woman for doing wrong according to the law: but if the judge, after he has heard what every body who was there has to say, does not think the man or woman guilty, he must let him or her go free. The judge must go by what the people say that was there or knew any thing about it.

22. The judge cannot punish, unless he sees the wrong done, or hears other people that he can believe, say they saw it done, or saw such things as make the judge know it was done.

23. If a man say before the judge that any other man or woman did wrong, and speak lie when he says so, he must go to jail and be punished as the judge says, for this is bad.

24. The king must make judges to hear all things which are wrong among his people, and to try all men or women that have done wrong; and the judges must be the best and wisest men among the king's people.

25. The American men must be tried by the American judges, and when the dispute is between a native and an American man, there must be a native judge and an American judge, and if they don't agree, the American governor of the colony must settle the business.

26. If any man kill or hurt another man's cattle beasts, he must pay for it, and go to jail and be punished as the judge says.

KING FREEMAN'S LETTER TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

In the last number of the journal, the visit of Simleh Balla, the messenger from king Freeman, of Cape Palmas, to the State Society, was mentioned, and the brief and simple code of penal law that was prepared and given to him for his chief at his request, was published. It will be seen by the extracts below, that these laws have been favourably received, and there is every reason to believe that they may exercise a favourable influence upon the native character. It will be borne in mind that it is a cardinal point of policy with the Board of Managers to elevate the native character, so that the colonization of Africa, unlike that of America, may tend to the civilization, and not the extirpation of the natives. With this object in view much has been done, the good effects of which are apparent in the kind relation existing between the natives and the colonists, and the peace which has prevailed in and around the infant settlement of Maryland in Liberia since its foundation.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47