Mr. Wilson presented to the audience a lucid statement of the advantages which would result to the Society, from the possession of a vessel to be run as a packet between Baltimore and Cape Palmas, and concluded by expressing an earnest wish that the object embraced in the resolution might be speedily accomplished.

The resolution was seconded by the honourable Judge Chambers, who made a most effective speech. The honourable Judge left the conviction on every mind, that as Maryland had taken the lead of all the states in the union in the cause of colonization, and had thus far most successfully sustained and carried forward the enterprise,—planting on the coast of Africa, a colony called by her own name,—giving existence to a state, and supplying it with all the elements of prosperity,—she was bound by every consideration to fulfil the contract, which she had made with those who, under her patronage, had consented to become inhabitants of Maryland in Liberia.

He said it was our duty to inquire into the most efficient means for the accomplishment of this important end. Among them, perhaps, none had been devised more efficient than the object presented in the resolution. Could the Society become possessed of a vessel, the direct communication between the city of Baltimore and the Maryland colony, would enable the colonists and their friends in this country, to interchange frequent visits, through which, he thought, the prejudice against colonization, now entertained by the coloured people, would be more speedily and effectually removed, than by any other means which could be devised. He stated some facts which came within his own knowledge, of the influence of such visits. Alexander Hance, formerly a citizen of Calvert county, left this state some years since, and became a citizen of Maryland in Liberia. He left a part of his family behind him, and at the time appointed, he returned on a visit to his friends, and took his relations with him. More recently, Thomas Jackson had pursued the same course, with similar success. These instances served to demonstrate how the system would operate when the intercourse between Maryland and her colony should be more frequent and direct. He read a letter just put into his hands by a friend, written by an intelligent gentleman on the Eastern Shore, fully corroborating his own experience. He therefore united cordially with the mover of the resolution, in the expression of an earnest desire that the most effective measures would be adopted by the Society, to secure, at the earliest period, the ownership of a vessel.

On motion of Mr. Sollers, of Calvert,

Resolved, That the gratitude of the friends of colonization in Maryland, is due and hereby tendered to the Rev. John H. Kennard, an agent of the State Colonization Society, for the zeal and untiring assiduity which has characterized his labours in the discharge of the duties of his station.

The exercises of the meeting were closed by prayer by the Rev. Mr. McIlhenny, when the Society adjourned, *sine die*.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

Since the last annual report the Board of Managers have dispatched two expeditions to Maryland in Liberia. The Columbia sailed from Baltimore with thirty-six emigrants on the 17th of May last, and the Oberon sailed with fifty-three on the 22d November following. Both expeditions were well provided with every thing necessary to the comfort of the emigrants on their voyage; and the fall expedition took out the usual supplies of goods to furnish means for making preparations for the reception of fresh emigrants. The emigrants were well provided with tools and implements of labour suited to their age, sex, and previous occupations; and they were all told before sailing, that idleness and worthlessness found no exemption from their usual fate in Africa, and that there, as in America, wealth and prosperity could only be obtained by industry and good conduct.

Among the emigrants by the Oberon, were some valuable servants manumitted by Thos. Oliver, Esq. Mr. Oliver offered freedom to all his servants, on condition that they would emigrate, and offered to purchase the wives and children of such as had married slaves, to prevent families from being divided. The greater part of Mr. Oliver's servants preferred remaining in Maryland, however, to wait the report of those who sailed in the Oberon. The Board have great pleasure in noticing, on this occasion, the noble generosity of Mr. Oliver.

Doct. Robert McDowell and Doct. Samuel F. McGill sailed in the fall expedition. Doct. McDowell is a physician who has had much experience already in the diseases of the African coast, and goes to the colony as colonial physician for one year. Doct. Samuel F. McGill is a young coloured man who has received an excellent medical education at a college to the north, which gave him a diploma in October last. He is the eldest son of the present vice-agent of the colony, and has, with the exception of the last three years, resided from infancy in

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47