It has been heretofore stated that a code of laws for the redress of injuries, had been prepared by Hugh D. Evans, Esq. which, together with the constitution and declaration of rights, and the ordinance for the temporary government of Maryland in Liberia, formed a system for the use of the colonists. Copies of these laws having been printed and sent to the colony, were, by the agent, distributed among the officers of the colony and the most intelligent citizens, and after sufficient time had been allowed for their examination, they were formally proclaimed by the sheriff, with appropriate ceremonies, and at once took the place of the heterogeneous compound of law and customs, which had been previously in use. Experience has since shown their adaptation to the wants of the colony.

The population of the colony is at this time about five hundred, exclusive of the natives. There are two uniform volunteer companies: One of infantry, the other of artillery, which are represented to be well drilled, and to take great interest in their duties. Those who are liable to military duty, but do not belong to the volunteers, are formed into a company of un-uniformed militia.

Since the last annual report, the Episcopal Board of Missions have increased their establishment at Cape Palmas, until it is now the largest white missionary body in Africa. It consists of the Rev. Doct. Savage and lady, Rev. Mr. Payne and lady, Rev. Launcelot Minor, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, Mr. Byron, Miss ——, and Mr. ——, in all ten white persons. The mission of the A. B. C. F. M. consisting of the Rev. J. L. Wilson and lady, with a coloured printer and assistant teachers, is still maintained. Mr. Burns and lady (coloured) are the missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The attention of the latter is devoted to the colonists: the care of the two former establishments is limited, almost exclusively, to the heathen. Fair Hope and Mount Vaughan, their respective places of residence, have already the appearance of handsome and permanent settlements; while Mount Emory, the seat of the Methodist Episcopal Mission, may be expected soon to take rank with the other establishments.

The health of the colony has long ceased to be a subject of anxiety to the Board, they being satisfied that all that is wanting to make it as healthy to the coloured people as any other spot to which they could emigrate, is care, during the first few months of their residence. The health of the white missionaries is of itself a proof that nothing need be apprehended by emigrants on the score of climate.

The Board are much gratified in being able to announce that the difficulties which it was apprehended would grow out of the appointment of a coloured governor, J. B. Russwurm, Esq. have either not been realized, or have been satisfactorily overcome. The colonists, are now, generally, satisfied with the measure, and hold it to be, what in truth it is, an admission of their ability to fill all the offices of the

colony, the highest as well as the lowest. Soon after his appointment, it is understood that certain of the colonists took it into their heads that law was inoperative, when not administered by a white man, and they experimented upon the efficiency of the laws in the hands of a coloured executive, very much to their cost and dissatisfaction, as it turned out. After a few such experiments they satisfied themselves, that the law was independent of the colour of its ministers, and the result of their measures was, in the end, beneficial and salutary. At this time the respect that is paid to the governor by the colonists, differs in no wise from that which Doct. Hall and Mr. Holmes received from them. As respects the natives, no difference has been observed in their treatment of the coloured governor, which at all creates a doubt as to the propriety of appointing one. They apply the term 'white man' to civilized men generally, and they are shrewd enough to judge of the power, sense, and skill of the agent by his acts, without much reference to the colour of his skin. In the interior a white man is a curiosity—on the coast he is not: for here, the white man, of the worst species of the race, has been known as a trader for more than three hundred years.

The situation of Mr. Russwurm has, on more than one occasion, been one of great delicacy: and he has been called upon to act in cases which required prudence, firmness, and dignity. He has acquitted himself well: and his conduct has met with the sanction of the Board. Should he persevere in his present course, his name will rank very high as a friend to Africa, and as one who has illustrated in his own person the capacity of her children.

The colony may be considered now in a situation to receive all the emigrants that may be sent to it from the state without injury to it, and as fast as they may in all probability offer: and the Board have determined to make every exertion to procure a vessel of their own, to sail as a regular packet, between Baltimore and Cape Palmas. With this object in view, the agent of the society has been soliciting contributions during the past year, and his efforts will be renewed, until the design is accomplished.

During the last year, the labours of the agents have been unremitting in disseminating information in respect to colonization. Mr. Roberts commenced the canvass of the entire state, proposing to call at the dwelling of every citizen; and he has gone through St. Mary's, Charles, and Prince George's counties, in this manner. Besides disseminating information, Mr. Roberts procures contributions to the cause and subscribers to the Colonization Journal. The subscription to this last, is now sufficient to pay the expenses of printing and add to the funds of the society. The subscription list is gradually and steadily increasing.

Mr. Kennard, the agent for procuring emigrants, has been diligently engaged in the duties of his appointment, and has met during the year

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47