with the same difficulties growing out of the opposition of abolition that were mentioned in the last annual report. The steps of the agent are tracked from door to door of the coloured people. Wherever he has made a favourable impression, every thing is done to efface it. Deliberate misrepresentation and the grossest calumnies are unscrupulously uttered and often with unfortunate effect. It would have been supposed, that Maryland, one of the slave-holding states, would have been free from abolition. So it is from any open and public proclamation of the doctrines of the sect: but covertly and insidiously, so far as colonization is concerned, abolition works its mischiefs in Maryland as well as elsewhere. The agent reports to the Board facts, which fully support these assertions, and he states, the longer before the sailing of an expedition, an individual declares his intention to emigrate, the more uncertainty there is about his going, because the abolitionists, marking the movements of the agent, have a longer time to labour to counteract them. The difficulties in the way of the Board, are thus increased considerably: for instance, in preparing the fall expedition, the agent had on his book the names of one hundred emigrants, as many as it was desirable to send out, every one of whom was considered as certain to go:—and the quota being full, applications from Dorchester county were discouraged and put off until the spring. When the agent, however, went round to collect the emigrants and bring them to Baltimore, but fifty-three were firm in their purpose,—the others had changed their minds under the influence of abolition doctrines. The agent reports instances, where persons have sold their property and prepared to emigrate, and have yet been prevented by the false statements made to them in the absence of the agent.

The Board are advised and believe, that this state of things is changing for the better. The only way in which the mischiefs now complained of can be wholly and permanently abated, is by the friends of colonization throughout the state taking the matter in hand, and with their eyes open to what is going forward, the very knowledge that the abolitionists will have that they are watched, will paralyze their efforts. It is now easy for them to render useless the labours of a single individual—the agent of the society—their best efforts will be powerless to defeat the united and energetic action of the friends of the cause in Maryland.

The doctrine which the abolitionists spread among the coloured people is, that by remaining in the state they will ultimately get what is termed 'their rights,' by which is meant, perfect, social and political, equality; and those who emigrate are stigmatized as recreants to the cause of their race. They are told that their right to the land they cultivate, is better than the owner's, for they have earned it by their labour on it. These, and the like, are opinions current among numbers of the coloured population, and may be traced to their source in the great fountain of abolition.

The effect of this state of things must be the direct opposite of that intended by those to whom it is to be attributed. It will increase more and more, the conviction, that the two races of men cannot live in the same country, enjoying as free men, equal rights; and the feeling, which has already produced in New York and Pennsylvania the riots that have been witnessed in the chief cities of those states, will be excited far and wide, until the free coloured people of the United States will come to look to colonization as the greatest boon, and their last refuge. That this day will arrive, those who have considered the subject, in full view of all the circumstances and unbiassed by the fanatic doctrines already referred to, entertain no doubt. Against its advent, colonization is intended to provide. To this end it is fully adequate: and while the scheme is a wild chimera, so far as it aims at the removal of the entire coloured population of the United States by individual contributions, it is perfectly practicable, wise and benevolent as a means of establishing on the coast of Africa, colonies, capable of self-support, self-government, and self-defence, virtuous, prosperous and happy; and capable of receiving and welcoming those whom the pressure of an increasing white population, contending with them for all means of livelihood, and the force of other circumstances, may compel to emigrate. The emigration thus brought about, will be like that which now takes place from Europe to America. It will, like that, be the result of a desire to better the condition of the emigrants themselves. To prepare for this, the Board of Managers are doing all in their power to make their colony as attractive to the free coloured man of Maryland, as America is to the European, and to spread correct views and a full knowledge of all the facts among this class of the population.

During the last year, a form of general government for all the colonies on the coast of Africa, was suggested by a convention of the state societies of New York and Pennsylvania and the American Colonization Society, which has, with some modifications, been adopted by the latter, as its future constitution. To this convention, delegates from the Maryland Society were invited, and a committee was appointed to proceed to Philadelphia to attend it. The committee declined, when in convention, taking part in any proceedings looking to the establishment of a general head in the United States—because, on mature reflection, the Maryland Society had seceded from the American Colonization Society, and had adopted the plan of independent state action—or to the establishment of a general government in Africa, because they thought that, in the present scattered positions of the colonies,—their scant population, and the difficulties of communicating between them—it was wholly premature, and could afford no possible advantages, so far, certainly, as the Maryland colony was concerned, that would compensate for the additional drain upon means already sufficiently limited,

Maryland Historical Society

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47