and the complication it would introduce into affairs, which, on all accounts, it was desirable to keep simple. The Maryland Society too, had made a coloured man their agent in Africa. For two years he had performed all his duties with satisfaction to the Board: and, however limited might be the power of the governor-general, the fact, that he was a white man, and had in any particular a controlling power, would detract from the moral influence, which the placing of government in the hands of one of their own colour, and its tendencies to elevate their appreciation of their own ability and capacity, were producing among the colonists of Maryland in Liberia.

With these reasons, the Maryland delegation could not join in the proceedings of the convention, further than to agree to the adoption of a plan, to be prepared, regulating the intercourse of the colonies themselves; providing for a uniform currency,—for the authentication of public records,—for a common flag,—for the delivery up of fugitives from justice,—and for the rights of citizenship of the residents of one settlement in the other settlements;—matters mainly of an international character, and requiring the action of the state societies only, independent, wholly, of any general head in this country or on the coast of Africa. To prepare such a plan, a committee was appointed, which was to report to the different societies, having colonies on the coast, who were then to send delegates to a convention, with authority to adopt it as reported, or as the convention might modify it. The resolutions on this subject, proposed by the Maryland delegation, will be found in the appendix, together with the proceedings of the convention. There will be found, also, in the appendix, an extract from a former annual report, expressing the views of the Board of Managers on this subject, and which is now referred to, because the plan of the convention that has now been agreed upon is there stated to be one of the objects at which the Board of Managers then aimed. The appendix contains, also, the plan of a confederation, which will probably be recommended to the societies, having colonies on the west coast of Africa.

This statement is made in this place, not only as a part of the events of the year, which it is the duty of the managers to report, but to inform the society, why the Board have declined becoming parties to the American Colonization Society, under the new organization, which was made at the last annual meeting of that body. A part of that organization, creates the Board of Managers of delegates from the state societies, having colonies on the coast, from state societies contributing two thousand dollars annually, and makes individuals who contribute one thousand dollars to the cause, life members of the Board. To this plan, there are objections, certainly, which have weight with the people of the slave-holding states. It is its connection with the

subject of slavery, that makes colonization at all interesting to them. It is this very connection which has induced the society in Maryland to adopt the principle of independent state action, which repudiates all extraneous and unsolicited interference, with the subject of slavery, in any mode or shape: and the plan above mentioned, is one, which sets up for sale, the control of this very colonization scheme—and may place it in the hands of those, at any instant, whose fancied connection with it, has always been one of the greatest objections which the south have urged against it. Upon any occasion which they may deem important enough to require the outlay of a sufficient sum, the north may under the new constitution of the American Colonization Society, acquire the control of it by creating enough life members; and should the south multiply members to outvote the northern increase, the result would be an unwieldy body too much torn with dissensions on the most exciting of all subjects, to deal properly or prudently with the funds which the contest for a majority would place under their control. It is no answer to the objection thus made to northern influence, that the south can buy influence too. The south can by the aid of the system of independent state action, use the money that would be necessary, far more profitably than in fitting out combatants for the arena that a general society would present, when the representatives of diametrical opinions on the subject of slavery would meet together in its halls. Nor is what is thus said premature, or the result of too great anxiety. The daily thickening events of the time, show that the subject of slavery is fast becoming one of deep and fearful importance; and that the safety of the slave-holding states will be found, to use the language of a former report of this Board, in 'repudiating all extraneous and unsolicited interference with the subject of slavery, whether by the general government, societies, or individuals.'

In conclusion of this part of their report, the Board of Managers express again their confidence in the plan of independent state action, that they have adopted, and their intention is, unless otherwise directed by the society, to persevere in its prosecution.

During the last year, two emigrants returned from Cape Palmas on a visit to their friends. Both were persons of high respectability in the colony, and the Board had an opportunity of making numerous and minute inquiries into its condition. They returned in the Oberon. It is believed that their visit aided materially in disseminating correct information and views among the free coloured people with whom they conversed.

In terminating their report, the Board of Managers would express their grateful sense of the divine favour which has thus far blessed the labours of the weak hands employed in the cause of colonization. At an expense less than is often lavished on the mansion of a dweller in

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47