affairs of its own colony—the officers thereof being responsible to such State Society alone. The convention to meet annually at some suitable place, and should it be necessary to be represented, in its recess, by an executive committee: so that, hereafter, when the people of Liberia assume the reins of government, the State Societies, transferred, in their functions, to Africa, may become state governments there, and the convention, composed there of delegates from such state governments, may become, and quite soon enough too, the federal congress of Liberia. Such a convention, composed of delegates from the American Colonization Society, and the several State Societies, each having equal weight, would, in the opinion of the committee, be a safer, and, to the southern states, less objectionable body, than a society composed indiscriminately of individuals from all the states in the Union, entertaining among themselves various and discordant opinions on the subject of colonization—some inclined to push it to the verge of abolition, and others, again, desirous to use it for very different purposes.

'The effect of this system would be to retain, for a considerable time yet, the control of all matters connected with the colonies in the hands of the separate societies having colonies in Africa, postponing the transfer of power to a period, when, more accustomed to their position, more competent to an independent government, better qualified in all respects, and better educated, and with a far more numerous population, the colonies in Africa would be able to assume the responsibilities of a free people, with credit to themselves, and with the certainty of continuing firmness and prosperity.'

MARYLAND IN LIBERIA.

The following are extracts from the despatches of John B. Russwurm, agent of the Maryland State Colonization Society, to the Board of Managers, dated

HARPER, *Cape Palmas, Liberia*, 28th December, 1837.

JOHN H. B. LATROBE, Esq.
President Maryland State Colonization Society.

DEAR SIR:—With sincere congratulation on your election to your present office, allow me to acknowledge the safe receipt of the despatches and other letters and papers, per brig Baltimore, on my return from Monrovia. The Baltimore did not call in at Monrovia as I expected; I was therefore considerably disappointed, and had to remain there until an opportunity offered of chartering a small English schooner to carry us thence. I am happy to inform you that I found every thing in order on my return, and that the comfort of the new emigrants had been particularly attended to by the assistant-agent, who had settled them in the new long-house.

1. *Re-establishment of native Magistrates and Constables.*—I believe I informed you that king Freeman had put down those officers, for their activity in detecting thieves and finding stolen property, some few weeks after my arrival. You will be pleased to hear that all the beach kings and head-men have bound themselves to support and protect all who may be appointed to these offices. They have further agreed, that no king shall hereafter of his own accord, abolish them; and that they shall be acknowledged by the whole of the Greybo people; and by them alone, in grand palaver, can be done away with. Accordingly, native magistrates and constables have been appointed in all the towns, and their names registered in a small book, so that all palavers in these towns can at any moment be referred to them. I conceive this to be one grand point gained, for heretofore, in all our palavers, there has been a great difficulty in recognizing, with *certainty*, delinquent natives without the aid of one of these constables. Again, I find that they are generally willing to leave all disputes to arbitration, to be settled by one native and one American magistrate; they submitting to their decision. I rejoice in the arrangement, and experience the good effects of it from the ease with which

all native palavers can now be set; I am a gainer also by it, as less of my time is taken up.

2. *Public Farm.*—I believe you were informed in my last, that some acres had been ploughed on the public farm. Our working cattle there have done very well; but not so well in other sections of the colony. There has been too little enterprise in the colony, and too much inclination to be discouraged upon the failure of a first attempt. But little can be effected here without beasts of burden and the plough. All our lands have become poor from having been cultivated from time immemorial, and to render them fruitful, considerable must be expended on them.

I believe I named to you that I had received some African cotton seed from Dr. Hall, which I intended having planted and distributed among the colonists. What was planted on the farm has done very well, and I have heard no complaints from colonists. Of the seed which came out in the Baltimore, we have distributed to every one who chose to apply. I have also planted considerable on the farm; but owing to the wetness of the season, and its present dwarfish appearance, I dare not predict much. Some seed, however, planted by the new emigrants immediately on their arrival, has produced as fine cotton as any they ever saw in the United States. This is the opinion of A. Cummings, whom I should consider a competent judge.

3. *Factory at Rock Town.*—When Rock Town territory was deeded to us, the king and head-men requested me to put a factory there for the purchase of rice and palm oil, to which I agreed. In the late palaver, however, about trade, they saw proper to side with our Cape natives, and the whole project was abandoned. Since, they have entered into a written agreemeut, to furnish rice and palm oil at the old rates, and I have commenced a factory which is almost shut in, and is only waiting for plank enough for the doors and windows and lower floor.

Two reasons influenced me in this movement; 1st—to keep any vessels from establishing a factory there, as the principal part of our rice and palm oil came from that region; 2ndly—to bring our Cape Palmas natives to their senses, and let them see that we were not so dependent on them as they would wish us to believe. Rice is uncommonly scarce in the region, and could the truth be known, I believe that it is the sole cause of their demanding a higher rate for it. Natives are daily passing with articles for sale, for which some will only take rice. They wasted the proper season for planting last year, in palavering with us, and now they begin to see their folly from the want which they already feel.

4. *New Emigrants.*—As yet I have said nothing of the new emigrants from Georgia, who will, I trust, prove a valuable accession to the colony. They have now been here nearly six months, and are doing, generally speaking, better than emigrants from any other state. They have lost but two grown individuals; one from fever, and the other, Jeremiah Tubman, ninety years of age, from debility. Two or three very small children have died.

You will be pleased to learn that I have succeeded, after considerable opposition from the natives, in locating the Tubmans about one quarter of a mile beyond Mount Vaughan, the site of the Protestant Episcopal Mission, around a small mount, which I have named *Tubman*, after their former owner and benefactor. The land is equal to the best hitherto settled by the Americans, and taken in a body, is perhaps superior. They seem pleased with it, and I firmly believe that in another season, they will be able to raise enough to support themselves besides their crop of cotton. I shall purchase them some working cattle, as soon after they are prepared to take care of them, as I can; but I should think it would be of much advantage if twenty-five or thirty jennies could be sent out expressly for them. They tell me that such a promise was made to them in the United States.

They have at this time seven frame houses erected; but considerable time will elapse before the majority of them can be placed on their farms, from the want of plank. We have but two saws cutting plank in the colony, and if it was not for the clap-boards, which we purchase from the natives, our houses would cost three or four times as much as they now do.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47