plish this. The present attempt to procure a good stock of beasts of burden, from which to breed, proceeds from their desire to fix the attention of the colonists upon the cultivation of the soil, as the best mode of securing an early and happy independence.

In this matter the Board have not been without their disappointments. Although the laws of the colony prohibited native traffic, the fruitful source of difficulty and dispute, without a license, except for clothing or provisions,—and although no licenses were issued, it was impossible to prevent the exceptions covering a much more extensive trade than was intended, the inclinations of the colonists, generally, with some honourable exceptions, leading them to prefer the easy profits of trade to the harder won profits of agriculture. This was remedied, to a considerable extent, by the introduction of the paper currency mentioned in a former report, which found great favour with both natives and colonists,—and which, being issued sparingly, and with a view to the competency of the public store to redeem it in goods, has maintained its credit, and along with that its usefulness. But nothing has tended so much to force the colonists to pay attention to agriculture, as the difficulties thrown in the way of obtaining rice, and provisions generally, from the natives, by wars among the latter. What might, at first sight, have appeared to be an evil to the colony, was made a benefit to it by the results; and at the date of the last despatches, as Governor Russwurm writes, there was more land under cultivation, by a great deal, than there had been since the establishment of the colony, and the feeling was becoming general among the colonists, that it was both unsafe and impolitic to rely for support upon any other labour than their own. The importance of this subject justifies its being dwelt upon.

During the last year the internal concerns of the colony have been as satisfactory as could reasonably have been expected. And although occasionally a turbulent or disaffected individual has produced excitement, yet the laws have been in the end maintained, and have been supported by the good sense and good feeling of the community. The little society at Cape Palmas may be considered in a transition state—enjoying a novel degree of freedom, and exercising for the first time an influence in their own government under a written constitution. The result is as favourable as there was any reason to expect; and the Board of Managers are satisfied, that under the eye of a firm and prudent executive, possessing sufficient authority at the colony, such as there is now in the person of Governor Russwurm, the colony will maintain the reputation of an orderly and well regulated community, where the law is paramount.

The Code, heretofore prepared for the colony, with the Charter, or Constitution, and Ordinance for the temporary government, have been found to answer well in practice; and being as yet of small compass,

and not swelled by decisions and modifications, are easily and fully understood by the colonists.

The population at Cape Palmas and its vicinity is now large enough to justify the society in sending to the colony as many emigrants as may be offered; and the colony is therefore in a situation to fulfil the views and expectations of its founders, offering to the free people of colour of the state as favourable a spot for emigration, as any other beyond the limits of the United States. In the first few years of the colony, care had to be taken to limit the number of emigrants sent to it, for fear of overburthening it. This is no longer a consideration.

It has often heretofore been said, and it is here repeated, that colonization is not supported or advocated by this society, as a means of transporting, without cost to themselves, the entire free coloured population of the state to Africa or elsewhere; but it is believed that with a much smaller expenditure than would be required for this purpose, happy, prosperous, and increasing communities, capable of self-support, self-government, and self-defence, may be planted on the coast, which shall offer such inducements to the free coloured population to emigrate, that they will gladly seek them as an asylum and a home. To plant such communities, the contributions of states and individuals are ample. Such a community the State Society believe that they have been, in a measure, successful in planting; and they believe that, by the time the appropriation of the state shall be exhausted, the colony will be capable of taking care of itself, and fulfilling its purposes, without any other expenditure than may be necessary to transport such emigrants to it as may not be able to provide their own transportation.

Few of the Europeans who seek our shores have any assistance given them to cross the Atlantic, and yet here they come, thousands upon thousands. The free coloured people have stronger reasons to leave America than the emigrants in question to leave Europe; for colour here presents an insuperable barrier to the improvement of their political condition, which is not the case with Europeans in the land they leave. Were the same emigration to take place from America to Africa that takes place between Europe and America, but a few years would elapse before the free coloured people would disappear from among us—a few years it is meant in reference to such a result.

In former reports the Board of Managers have referred to the difficulties in the way of procuring emigrants, caused by the labours of the abolitionists; the more difficult to counteract, because covertly carried on. These difficulties, the Board are informed by their agent, still continue to exist, and can only be overcome by patience and perseverance in the course that has been pursued heretofore.

Connected in some respects with the subject of colonization, is the emigration to Trinidad and English Guiana, which has taken place, or been urged and promoted during the last year, by agents from those colonies of England. This plan has in many instances found favour with

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VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47