the free coloured people, and this has led to the belief that the doctrine of remaining in the United States, with a view to obtaining, by the influence of numerical strength, political and social equality with the whites, is losing its weight, and will soon cease to operate. If this shall be the case, African colonization will be the gainer, for this doctrine is that against which it has been most difficult to contend. The Board of Managers have thrown no obstacles in the way of either of the agents who have visited the United States, but on the contrary, have been glad to see them succeed to the extent that they have done. The Board themselves entertain little doubt that the free coloured people would consult their best and most lasting interests by emigration to Africa, but they are willing to believe that emigration to Trinidad or Guiana may, at the present time, be more for the advantage of the coloured man than to remain in the United States; because, from what is understood, employment is soon obtained, wages are higher, and there is more political importance given to the coloured population than with us.

But how long this is to last may be another question. The invitation to the coloured population of the United States to emigrate has followed the abolition of slavery in the colonies in question, because the freed men working less than they did as slaves, do not furnish the same amount of labour as formerly. The plantations are therefore not worked to their full capacity to produce, and hence, the attempt to get additional labour from the states of the Union. It will not take a very large immigration to supply all the labour at this time wanted, and then further immigration, by increasing competition for employment, must lower the rate of wages; unless, indeed, as is said to be the intention, or rather expectation, new plantations are opened, and the emigrants themselves become landed proprietors. This is not considered, however, a probable event.

Still, as the present emigration is certainly for the benefit of the emigrant, and as it will check itself, should the result suggested take place, the society have felt no disposition to oppose it; but, on the contrary, consider it as evincing a salutary change in the opinions of the coloured people, and a growing conviction on their part, that *this* is not their appropriate home.

The reasons of the Board for preferring and recommending emigration to Africa are, that the colonists at once take the government into their own hands; not permissively and to a limited extent, as in the English colonies, but altogether, from the highest offices to the lowest. The governor, the magistrates, the military officers—all, indeed, who hold authority, are persons of colour. The colony is essentially a coloured colony, ever to remain so—the *white* man is the *stranger* there. In the English colonies, it is otherwise. Soil and salubrity being equal, and considering colonization in reference to the coloured

race, as a means of elevating them morally and politically, the Board think that the greater privations encountered in Africa are far more than compensated by the more important results to be obtained there.

During the past year, the intelligence from the coast of Africa having satisfied the United States' government, that the slave trade had been carried on there extensively under the American flag, two vessels of war have been sent to the coast. These will, it is understood, be stationed there, and their presence, it is believed, will have a happy influence, not only in the peculiar purposes of their employment, but also in affording countenance to the colonies on the coast.

The large missionary force at the colony has, during the last year, been influential in promoting the interests of both natives and colonists; and their presence at the colony has afforded to the missionaries numerous opportunities of preserving the peace and harmony of the settlement. The Board cherish them, and are anxious to promote their usefulness and well being.

The settlement of Maryland in Liberia consists now of two villages. One, which is the seaport, on the ocean, called Harper. The other, four miles in the interior, named Mount Tubman—the two connected by the Maryland avenue, on either side of which, and adjoining each other, are the farms of the colonists. The whole presents, as all visitors agree, a most interesting community.

Accompanying this report, is a balance sheet of the books of the society from its organization in 1831; shewing, it is believed, every dollar that has been received and expended under the proper heads. The affairs of the society are, to a considerable degree, commercial in their character; because, with a view to save the loss incurred in making purchases on the coast, paid for by drafts on the United States, the society send out the articles themselves, and thus make the profit, which would otherwise, be paid to the trader. The store at the Cape, belonging to the society, is kept supplied with goods suitable to the market, with which the expenditures of the society are made; for there being no coin, which cannot remain in a country that exports nothing, the trade with the natives and colonists is carried on by barter, except indeed, where the paper money already mentioned, serves as a medium of exchange. This results advantageously to the society; the gain, as shewn by the account current, being $9,046 98, which is there entered to the credit of profit and loss.

By the account current, it will be seen, that the total amount of expenditures in the nine years, has been $101,162 82—of which, there has been received from the managers of the state fund, $66,139 91—from the colonization tax on slaves imported into the state, $2,570—and from the state appropriation of 1827, $930; in all, $69,639 91. The balance, $31,522 91, having been contributed by the society, to the objects which the state had in view in passing the law of 1831, ch.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47