REPORT OF THE MANAGERS

OF THE

STATE COLONIZATION FUND,

FOR THE

REMOVAL OF THE FREE PEOPLE OF COLOUR;

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND.

COLONIZATION ROOMS, BALTIMORE,
January 21*st*, 1840.

To His Excellency WILLIAM GRASON,
Governor of Maryland:

THE report of the undersigned, the Managers of the State Colonization fund, respectfully represents:—

That during the last year the sum that they have drawn from the state has been $15,000. By the act under which they were appointed, the sum of $200,000 was appropriated to be applied to the purpose of removing the free people of colour from the state, of which $20,000 was authorized to be paid during the year succeeding the appropriation, and the balance from time to time as might become necessary, and a tax amounting to $10,000 per annum was imposed upon the counties of the state, to be paid in the proportions mentioned in the act. After the first year, the sum generally drawn by the Managers has been limited to $10,000 annually, though such restriction is not to be found in the act. This money has been paid from time to time as required, and as has been stated in former reports, to the Maryland State Colonization Society, and by them appropriated to the establishment of their colony of Maryland in Liberia, and the removal there of such emigrants as the efforts of the society could induce to remove. The expenditures of this society have been under the eye of the Managers of the state fund, and have been economical and judicious; and the agency of the State Society, which brought a number of gentlemen of character and influence to the aid, gratuitously, of the objects of the state in her legislation on this subject, has been considered always as valuable and important. In another point of view the association has been productive of benefit to the state, for the State Society being a benevolent institution, and receiving support from individuals throughout the state, besides what they derived from the state fund,

has added most materially to the means applicable to the object,—and the account current annexed to the report of its proceedings for the last year herewith transmitted—shows that, while the contribution of the State has amounted since the organization of the Society to $69,639 91, the contributions of the Society from other quarters has amounted to $31,522 91, which is the gain of the state by the course which the Managers of the state fund pursued in using the agency of the Society in question. In this proportion, it will be seen that the appropriation of $200,000 by the State, is made in fact equivalent to a sum of nearly $300,000, applicable to the purpose in hand, the removal of the free people of colour of the State from beyond its borders.

The result of the system thus far, has been the establishment of a colony on the coast of Africa, at a point salubrious to the coloured emigrant, where the soil is fertile, and where there is gradually growing up, with rare prosperity, a colony, which will be competent to receive all the emigrants from the State whom circumstances may induce to remove.

That the time is approaching when it will become apparent to the free coloured population that it is their interest to remove, the undersigned cannot doubt. The increasing white population of the country, the growing competition already observable in many of the ways of livelihood, all tend but to one result, which must be a conviction on the minds of the free coloured population, that in this land their race can have no abiding home. When this day arrives in Maryland, the state will be prepared for it, and the colony on the coast of Africa will offer to the free people of colour a home, of which, it is believed, that they will then be most ready to avail themselves.

The Managers of the state fund have thus extended their report beyond its accustomed length, with a view to state fully the system on which they have acted; one that has heretofore been countenanced and approved by the state authorities; and they do this, at this time, because it has been suggested to withdraw the appropriation of the state. This would not have the effect of swelling the funds in the treasury for general purposes, the tax being a specific one for a specific object, but the sure result of it would be to abandon to ruin a colony, established under an act of the General Assembly—approved by successive legislatures, and whose people relied on the faith of the state to the extent of the original law, when they left America for Africa.

The number of manumissions, immediate and prospective, since the date of the last annual report, has been one hundred and twenty-eight.

All which is most respectfully submitted.

CHAS. HOWARD,
WM. R. STUART,
F. ANDERSON.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

VIII. Commissions and Reports

D. Reports of the Board of Managers
1835-47